



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Friday
17 May 1991

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17 May 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage Continues on Arab League Session

Libyan Official's Address

LD1605084191 Tripoli JANA in English 1709 GMT
15 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, May 15, JANA—The secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, the chairman of the Foreign Ministers' Council of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), asserted AMU's keenness to continue supporting the Arab League and providing help to it to carry out its role in the common Arab action field.

Addressing the current round of session of the Arab League in Cairo today, he said that such keenness was to enable the Arab League to press ahead towards achieving the aspirations of the Arab nation in comprehensive unity.

He also demanded the need to abide by the league's documents and consider them a guide from common Arab action, respect them and work towards implementing them.

He asserted that the strength of the Arab League will enable our Arab nation to achieve solidarity and confront the threats facing the united Arab action and remove all disputes pointing out that the Arab nation is able to overcome all the crises it had passed through.

Concluding his address, he congratulated Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid for his nomination as secretary general of the league.

'Abd-al-Majid on Arab Summit

NC1605113791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT
16 May 91

[Text] Beirut, 16 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that Arab solidarity manifest itself in an honorable way yesterday, which was a good omen. He added that he felt that everyone wants to clear the Arab atmosphere and open the way for joint Arab action. Noting that there are difficulties, he stressed the need to pursue the course of supreme Arab interests even if the road is hard and long.

In an interview published today by the Lebanese paper AL-DIYAR following his election as Arab League secretary general, 'Abd-al-Majid said that the leaders of the Arab countries themselves have to decide on whether to hold an Arab summit. He added that a decision on the summit could be made after the next Arab League meeting, which will be held at the foreign minister level in September. Meetings at such levels are usually well prepared for.

He said that during his first tour of Arab countries, he will visit Lebanon. He added that Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bwayz felt the extent of Egypt's interest

in Lebanon during his visit, particularly when he met President Husni Mubarak who underlined his interest in Lebanese affairs and Egypt's desire to support the security and reconciliation process and the restoration of Lebanon's stability and full sovereignty.

Al-Masri Meets 'Abd-al-Majid

NC1605142491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT
16 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri today.

The Jordanian minister said afterward that he met with the secretary general to congratulate him on his unanimous election as the league secretary general. He added: I also extended our warm wishes, both official and personal, for success in boosting joint Arab action. Also, we discussed the Arab situation in the region, especially what concerns the Arab League; general political action; and the U.S.-led political moves in cooperation with the Soviet Union to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue.

He pointed out that the league's basic role is to act as an umbrella which groups all the Arab countries and that the Arab League is the main theme of Arab solidarity and joint action.

Replying to a question about Jordan's stand on Baker's tour and on what is happening now in the region, he said: We are a party to these negotiations. Our stand is known and clear. He added: There must be an acceptable and appropriate Palestinian representation. As far as Jordan is concerned, a Palestinian delegation takes priority, but the other option is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This option is open and has been submitted for positive discussion in agreement with the PLO.

ACC Official Says Council Will Be Revived

NC1605162191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT
16 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Dr. Hilmi Nammar, Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] secretary general, returned to Cairo from Amman this afternoon. The Jordanian capital is the ACC headquarters.

On his return, Dr. Nammar stated that the ACC's success hinges on the good relations and spirit that bind the leaders of its member states. He said that clearing the Arab atmosphere is a necessary objective, which we are trying to attain. He noted that while the ACC's activity is currently suspended because of the present circumstances, there is no doubt that all parties are trying to restore its activity.

Palestinian Affairs

Syria's al-Shar' Meets Qaddumi, Tunisian

JN1605045991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Cairo—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi in Cairo last night. He also received Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya. The talks dealt with current Arab affairs.

Further on al-Shar', Qaddumi Meeting

NC1605205391 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1948 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—According to Palestinian sources, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held a meeting in Cairo last night with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The meeting was also attended by 'Isa al-Darwish and Sa'id Kamal, [Palestinian ambassador to Cairo].

The Palestinian sources said that during the meeting they discussed PLO-Syrian relations, the results of the Gulf war, and current efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

Al-Shar' and Qaddumi participated in the Arab League Council meetings in Cairo yesterday.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Bessmertnykh-'Arafat Meeting

JN1505133091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo
in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 91

[Excerpts] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh left Geneva for Moscow this morning following his meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night at the Soviet mission to the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department and member of 'Arafat's delegation, said that the Palestinian side told Bessmertnykh that the acceptable formula is the participation of a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories at the peace conference and on an equal footing with all the other parties. He added that the United Nations should have a basic role in this conference to be in harmony with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

'Abd-Rabbuh explained that contacts will continue between the Soviet and Palestinian sides in Moscow over the next few days. He added: We cannot say there is too much optimism because of the Israeli conditions and intransigence.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Lebanese Sovereignty Talks

JN1605205691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo
in Arabic 2024 GMT 16 May 91

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] In a telephone contact with our radio from Cairo, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has stated that the Palestinian-Lebanese meeting dealt with issues related to facilitating the spread of Lebanese sovereignty throughout Lebanese territory. He said: We have expressed the position that the PLO will play its role in full to facilitate this development. We hope that more such Lebanese-Palestinian meetings will take place during the coming weeks to discuss the various practical aspects of this situation.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: Naturally, this meeting could open the way for establishing official ties between the Lebanese state and the PLO and the reactivation of the PLO representative's office in Beirut to follow up on all bilateral matters.

Palestinians, Lebanese Hold Talks in Cairo

NC1605082891 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0709 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—A Palestinian source stated today that the talks held last night between Lebanese and Palestinian representatives were positive and constructive. He said the talks will lead to a real relaxation in Lebanese-Palestinian relations within the framework of imposing the Lebanese authorities' complete control over all Lebanese territories.

The round of talks was held at the Lebanese delegation's residence in Cairo. Nabih Farahat, director of Lebanese security, and a Palestinian delegation that included PLO Central Committee member Salah Salah, Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and two of the PLO's military commanders were the participants.

In a statement to MENA, the source said that discussions dealt with ways of applying the al-Ta'if accord to the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Preparations are now under way for a meeting between Lebanese Foreign Minister Fariz Buwayz and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, both of whom are in Cairo to attend the Arab League Council meetings at the foreign ministers' level. The meeting will be aimed at finding a clear and definite formula for Palestinian-Lebanese relations in the coming stage.

Buwayz Confers With Qaddumi

NC1605140791 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1300 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Fariz Buwayz met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, at the Sheraton in Cairo, where Buwayz is staying, at noon today. The talks dealt with ways

to apply the al-Ta'if accord to the Palestinian forces in Lebanon. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, and Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo. Major General Nabih Farhat, director of Lebanese security, took part in the discussions.

Lebanese-Palestinian Talks on Armed Presence

JN1605141891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo
in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 May 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] The second session of talks between the Lebanese and Palestinian delegations to discuss the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon ended today. The first session was held yesterday evening on the experts level and the second was held in the presence of Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi.

Following the talks, the Lebanese foreign minister said that he had asked the PLO to cooperate in the matter of disarming the militias, affirming that the Lebanese State cooperates with the Palestinians in all sincerity as long as they remain committed. He added: We are still at the beginning of the road and some Lebanese security bodies will follow up on what has been agreed.

For his part, Faruq Qaddumi said the PLO is extremely eager to preserve Lebanon's territorial integrity. He added: We will cooperate in every way with the Lebanese authority to help it spread sovereignty over all its territory. He further added that this meeting is the beginning of a Palestinian-Lebanese dialogue. While emphasizing that no Palestinian will give up arms, Qaddumi affirmed respect for the Lebanese sovereignty, contending that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon does not pose a threat and that the real danger comes from Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon.

A Palestinian source earlier told our radio that the basis on which the two sides held consultations guarantees the Lebanese authority's sovereignty over all Lebanese territory, while preserving and organizing the armed Palestinian presence in such a way that it will be designed to protect the Palestinian camps.

PLO Official To Hand 'Arafat Message to Saddam

JN1705082191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B
in Arabic 17 May 91 p 16

[Text] Amman—'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the culture department, headed for Baghdad on a several-day working visit during which he will deliver a letter to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the latest Arab and international developments related to the Palestine question, and on bilateral relations and means to entrench them in the service of the Iraqi and Palestinian peoples.

'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the State of Palestine to Iraq, will leave for Baghdad after having participated in the Fatah Revolutionary Council meetings held 8-12 May in Tunisia.

Fatah Revolutionary Council Issues Statement

LD1705071991 Algiers Voice of Palestine
in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 May 91

[Statement issued by the Fatah Revolutionary Council at the conclusion of meetings in Tunis 8 to 12 May]

[Text] Yet again our Palestinian revolution is facing a fierce imperialist-Zionist attack in a vain attempt to extinguish the torch of the valiant Palestinian revolution, to strike at the PLO, and to destroy the blessed intifadah in order to prevent the Palestinian people from attaining their national rights. This is part of the U.S. colonialist attack on the Arab nation and the region as a whole, and its attempt to impose its control over it.

The Fatah movement, which is loyal to our Palestinian people's objectives of liberation and independence, and expresses our Arab nation's objectives of liberation, unity, and democracy, is determined to face the challenges which have emerged in the aftermath of the Gulf war. It will remain loyal as a vanguard movement of the Palestinian people, as the expression of the feelings of the Arab masses and their national and pan-Arab conscience, and as the spearhead of the confrontation with the U.S.-Zionist attack.

Out of its awareness of the seriousness of the challenges faced by the Palestine cause and the Arab region, after a deep study of the situation, and in light of the reports submitted by brother leader Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Fatah Revolutionary Movement has endorsed an organizational plan to enrich and elevate the various formations of the movement's structures in harmony with its leading role. It has made political decisions in the following spheres:

1. Palestine.

A. The intifadah: The Fatah Revolutionary Council held a lengthy discussion on the experience of the past few years of our people's blessed intifadah. The first of its lessons is that the path of jihad and intifadah was the right way to mobilize the popular forces of struggle in order to consolidate and bolster the revolutionary path of our struggling people, who are always prepared.

The Fatah movement's Revolutionary Council greets our struggling people in our occupied homeland with admiration and appreciation for their brilliant steadfastness in the face of all the campaigns of encirclement, starvation, and detention, and for their persistence, with firm and unyielding determination, in raising the banner of jihad, freedom, and independence, on the path to crushing the occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

In light of the reports submitted to the council, a comprehensive program of support for the steadfastness of our people and their intifadah was adopted. This confirms that all the support is for consolidation of the struggle of our masses in confronting the war of starvation and the financial siege imposed on them, and for strengthening the forces of the intifadah and its blessed heroes, who sacrifice their lives for the sake of the freedom and independence of the homeland, in their capacity as custodians of the first Qiblah [direction to which Muslims pray], the third holy mosque [al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem] from which the prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, departed to heaven, and the cradle of Jesus, peace be upon him. The council also asserted the importance of the leading role of the unified national leadership of the intifadah and all the national and popular bodies and institutions. It highlighted the importance of strengthening that role and the need to make available all support for the participation of all the representatives of people's groups and national personalities, and the running of the affairs of the intifadah and its escalation. This requires the development of the role of the mass and popular organizations in order to make an effective daily contribution to the activities of the intifadah and strengthen its forces at all levels, and also the role of our leadership and the heroes in the prisons of the occupation.

B. International political moves: The Fatah Revolutionary Council declares its attachment to the unchanging Palestinian principles—foremost among which are the right to return and the right to self-determination and to the establishment of a free and independent state with noble Jerusalem as its capital. It also declares its attachment to the Palestinian peace initiative approved by the Palestine National Council in Algiers in 1988 and the declaration of the establishment of an independent state of Palestine in accordance with the resolution of Arab and international legitimacy. It confirms the rejection of any peace conference which is not held on the basis of the resolutions of Arab and international legitimacy, the sponsorship of the United Nations, and the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, on an equal footing with all the other parties.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council renews its commitment to making a positive and effective contribution to all the political efforts that are being made. At the same time, it confirms the importance of holding a five-party meeting, bringing together Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the PLO, in order to coordinate and unify attitudes toward the fateful issues that have been raised, make them rest on the base of the resolutions of Arab and international legitimacy, and exert joint efforts in order to mobilize the broadest forces at the Arab and international levels to prevent the Zionist plan, which is aimed at diverting them from this course, from succeeding.

C. National unity: On the basis of the revolutionary experience of our creative Palestinian people, which has

confirmed that national unity is our strongest weapon in facing our enemies, inside and outside, the Fatah Revolutionary Council hails the stance of national agreement, expressed by the masses of our people with their various forces and national institutions, inside and outside the State of Palestine. They have rallied around the PLO and its legitimate leadership, rejected the projects of self-administration [al-idarah al-dhatyah] and the imaginary alternatives, and resolved to continue the struggle in order to wrest the right of our people to return and to exercise self-determination, as well as establish an independent state of their own.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council States that the PLO is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, inside and outside, and in all international meetings and venues. It rejects all the imperialist and Zionist projects and proposals which try to harm its legitimate leadership or attempt to bypass its inalienable national rights and the attempt to [word indistinct] the issue of holy Jerusalem.

D. Settlement: The Fatah Revolutionary Council declares its rejection of the Zionist settlement policy and announces its determination to confront this by all means. It calls for the daily resistance of the masses to all the settlement moves, which constitute an immediate threat to the existence of our people and their future. We call on the Arab and Islamic states and the Jerusalem Committee to shoulder their responsibilities at once, in order to face the dangerous conspiracy against the city of Jerusalem and the Islamic and Christian sanctities. We call on the Soviet Union to contribute to facing the Zionist settlement campaign, which disregards the international legitimacy resolutions 252, 465, and 478, asserting the Arab character of Jerusalem and the rejection of its annexation or Judaization, by stopping the emigration of Soviet Jews to our Palestinian land.

We also call on the United States immediately to stop all the aid which it gives to the Israeli Government for the settlement of Jews from abroad and the construction of illegal settlements, as a step toward the protection of the rights of the Palestinians in facing the Israeli occupation and its crimes, as well as the protection of their legitimate national rights. The United States' continued unlimited support and protection for the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories reveals the U.S. role, which has double standards where international legitimacy and resolutions are concerned.

In the Arab field, proceeding from a belief in the importance of Arab solidarity as an important basic prop on which the massing of Arab forces is based, and in order to provide the minimum that is necessary to repel the Zionist and U.S. forces which have designs in our soil, our sacred shrines, our resources, and our waters, and proceeding from our pan-Arab stand of bypassing differences in order to build a unified Arab stand, the Fatah Revolutionary Council calls for a new page to be opened in fraternal relations between the PLO and Egypt, Syria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf

Cooperation Council states, and also between Iraq and the Gulf states and all the states concerned in order to create a sustainable structure for a new phase of fraternity and solidarity.

In this framework, the council highly values the positive and effective role that the Arab Maghreb Union states are playing along the road of the restoration of Arab relations, the return of Arab solidarity and unity of ranks, the return of the principled and strong stand alongside the PLO, and the strengthening of the PLO.

The council also values the progress of fraternal Jordanian-Palestinian relations and reaffirms the special and distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. It expresses the need to strengthen these fraternal ties and it stresses the importance of continuing the coordination of the efforts of the Jordanian Government and the PLO in all fields.

The council has received the results of the Palestinian-Lebanese consultations with satisfaction. It welcomes the steps designed to put a final end to the Lebanese crisis and to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The council asserts the importance of the positive participation of the PLO in the efforts aimed at achieving this objective by whatever means can safeguard Lebanese-Palestinian brotherhood, provide security and protection for our Palestinian people's camps in Lebanon, and guarantee for the sons of our people the enjoyment of their natural political, social, and militant rights within the framework of Lebanese sovereignty.

The council salutes with admiration and esteem the Lebanese-Palestinian steadfastness in southern Lebanon and the joint confrontation of continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon by air, land, and sea.

The Council listened with interest to the contribution of the Palestinian leadership, headed by brother Ammar personally, to the efforts which were made incessantly and devotedly toward a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and the genuine initiatives which were put forward on the basis of Arab and international legitimacy to spare our Arab nation the terrors of war and devastation and foreign intervention and to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the Gulf states on the basis of Arab brotherhood and solidarity.

The Council regrets the blackout attempts which took place to distort the Palestinian stand by Western and U.S. media, as well as the attempts to abort good Palestinian and Arab efforts in order to push the matter to the point of the disaster of war.

The Revolutionary Council out of awareness of the dangers that encircle our Arab nation and the issue of the Palestinian people, calls on Arab brothers to turn over the leaf of the past with all its wounds and pains. It calls for intensification of efforts by all to secure the withdrawal of U.S. and Atlantic forces from the soil of

fraternal Iraq and an immediate end to the war of starvation and [word indistinct] against the Iraqi people. (It salutes) the efforts of the Iraqi Government to arrive, through dialogue and understanding, at a political solution which safeguards Arab-Kurdish brotherhood and the unity and sovereignty of fraternal Iraq away from foreign intervention.

The Revolutionary Council, while it observes with satisfaction the gradual return of normal life in Kuwait, hopes the Kuwaiti Government will be able to restore normal Kuwaiti relations with the sons of the Palestinian community who work in Kuwait, that Palestinian detainees will be freed quickly, and a stop put to the excesses and attacks against them.

In the international field, the Council observes that the UN Security Council is today facing a challenge to its credibility concerning the manner of its implementation of its own resolutions concerning Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon, and that the United States still adopts the policy of double standards in its attitudes toward the issues of the area and the issue of the Palestinian people.

The declaration by U.S. President Mr. George Bush on 7 March 1991 includes important elements without any mechanism for their implementation. Also along the lines of protecting the Palestinian people and providing security for them in readiness for ending the occupation and beginning the exercise of their right to self-determination, no meaningful measures have been taken. Indeed, the situation is becoming more complex each day as far as our masses and our issue are concerned.

In this framework the Revolutionary Council reaffirms the need for the UN secretary general to convene an urgent meeting of the states signatory to the fourth Geneva convention in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution in this respect; also, to lay down the bases and the binding measures to stop the building of settlements and the Judaization of Holy Jerusalem, as well as land seizures, annexations, and the violation of Islamic and Christian sacred shrines.

Our Council expresses its appreciation for the stand of the pope and the Vatican toward the just cause of our people, and also the firm attitudes of the other Islamic and Christian leaderships in support of the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights and just cause.

The Revolutionary Council calls for greater coordination and interaction with the Nonaligned Movement, African states, the Islamic Conference Organization, the friendly states of the world, and the free forces on the basis of their principled and unchanging stands to support our people and their just cause. The Council voices its great appreciation for the stands of these fraternal and friendly countries and the unchanging stands of their peoples toward supporting our struggle.

The Council voices its solidarity with the people of South Africa and their right to self-determination. It

strongly denounces attitudes of racial discrimination, the fanning of sedition, and the violation of human rights to which this friendly people is exposed.

In this respect, the Council salutes the African confrontation states and their recent meeting in Lusaka for their stand and their support for the struggle of our people, for regarding the Palestinian issue as an African issue, and for inviting the PLO and its chairman to attend this meeting.

The Revolutionary Council appreciates the attitudes of the friendly Soviet Union and PRC for supporting the Palestinian people and their national rights and supporting the PLO in all fields; also, the attitudes of Japan and its affirmation of the need to abide by international legitimacy in dealing with the Palestinian issue and its affirmation of the importance of developing relations that serve these aims and establish world peace and security.

The Council also salutes the friendly states who stood alongside the issue of our people at the UN Security Council and at other international forums. In this respect, the Council expresses its appreciation for the stand by Presidents Gorbachev and Mitterrand, which was announced recently in Moscow, and their support for international legitimacy and the rights of our people.

The Council voices its appreciation for the attitude of the European states, and in particular the declaration by French President Francois Mitterrand of adhering to the bases of international legitimacy and respect for the independence of Palestinian representation through the PLO and his call for convening a UN Security Council summit.

The Council calls on the European states to give greater cooperation and coordination in various fields for the sake of securing the right conditions for convening the international peace conference on the basis of resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Council also stresses the need for and the importance of the effective participation of the EC in this conference.

The Revolutionary Council salutes the masses of our Arab, Islamic masses and the friendly states of the world which stood and still stand alongside our people and its blessed uprising and provide the moral and material support for the blessed uprising in order to continue the battle against Israeli occupation and confront the siege imposed on the PLO.

The Revolutionary Council voices its appreciation for the Arab forces which today forcefully stand up against the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy against our people and the PLO.

The Revolutionary Council calls for formation of the Arab forces front against U.S.-Zionist domination and for championing the national Palestinian struggle along

the road of seizing the right of our people to return and to self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state.

In this connection, the Council notes the important and positive resolutions which were adopted by the Arab and Islamic popular conference held recently in Khartoum.

The Revolutionary Council of the Fatah movement salutes and expresses appreciation for the role and stands of the Tunisian people and their militant president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in their support for the Palestinian people in all fields. It is a stand that will always be remembered by the Palestinian people, especially this warm sentiment which is given to the issue of our people and Holy Jerusalem and the holy shrines in Palestine by Tunisia, its president, government, and people.

Glory and immortality to our blessed martyrs and salutes and esteem for our heroic prisoners and detainees. Salutes and affection to our gallant wounded.

On that day shall the believers rejoice with the help of God. He helps whom He will and He is exalted in might most merciful. It is the promise of God. Never does God depart from His promise. But, most men understand not. And we wish to be gracious to those who were being oppressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith, and make them heirs, to establish a firm place for them in the land. [Koranic verse]

'Arafat Interviewed on Al-Ta'if Agreement, Lebanon

NC1305153091 Beirut AL-NAHAR

in Arabic 9 May 91 p 9

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by AL-NAHAR correspondent Sarkis Na'um, in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] Na'um: Do you think Lebanon has reached the stage of peace, following the al-Ta'if agreement, or is it, after 16 years of civil war, going through a truce that may be shattered by renewed fighting?

'Arafat: We may say that Lebanon is in a period of convalescence that will be followed, God willing, by the establishment of peace and stability in the country. This can be true regarding Lebanon's internal affairs and its relations with the Palestinians and the Arabs. As for the Israeli situation, it is known that the Israelis have not offered anything so far. UN Security Council Resolution 425 was not supposed to be linked to the Middle East crisis. However I was, all of us were, surprised to see that issue included in the proposed regional or international Middle East conference. This linkage concerns Palestinians, Lebanese, and Arabs.

We wanted the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon to be a Lebanese, Palestinian, Syrian, and Arab problem. We wanted to see Lebanon get rid of this problem. However, linking that issue with the entire Middle East

situation would call for the formation of a cohesive Arab position, despite the deep wounds left by the Gulf crisis. Five Arab countries—namely Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the PLO, and Egypt—would need to establish a cohesive position on the issue. You may remember that this was one of the recommendations issued by Fatah Central Council in its recent meeting. The major issue dealt with in that meeting was Lebanese-Palestinian relations. We believe that the Lebanese Government should extend its authority over all Lebanese territory, the entire 10,452 square km. Is that not how it should be? Exactly as [Slain Lebanese President] Bashir al-Jumayyil used to say.

Na'um: Do you believe that Israel's insistence in linking Resolution 425 with other international resolutions concerning the Middle East crisis will alter the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord that the Lebanese have reached with Arab help?

'Arafat: I do not think so. On the contrary, there is a consensus on the Arab position regarding Lebanon. There is no opposition or dissension by any Arab side. Everyone supports the accord. [passage omitted]

Na'um: Regarding the Lebanese cabinet's decision and the Palestinian problem, the cabinet made a clear decision that the militia weapons should be handed over and that the legitimate forces should be deployed. Palestinian sources say that there is a Palestinian desire to help the state extend its authority and that there are Palestinian demands in this regard? Could you give us an idea about these demands?

'Arafat: We have a number of Palestinians who came to your country because they had no other choice. This community has needs. They have to work and get on with their daily life. Right? But I have to note, in front of my brother Muhsin Ibrahim [secretary general of the Communist Action Organization, who is present throughout the interview] that we support his efforts on the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab levels with all our heart. When Muhsin telephoned me I did not hesitate to endorse the Lebanese state's efforts, particularly regarding the Palestinian weapons in the mountain. We even got in touch with Palestinians who are not members of the PLO Executive Committee and obtained their support to all the steps the Lebanese state has taken.

My brother Muhsin learned of our decision by telephone during the Palestinian leadership meeting. Do you remember, brother Muhsin? I told you to call, took down your message, and then returned to the Fatah Central Council. The Central Council made a recommendation and instructed the Palestinian leadership to respond to the details requested by my brother Muhsin. ('Arafat addressing Muhsin) You got our answer the next day. Our reply confirmed the Central Council's welcome to the steps aiming at ending the Lebanese issue, including the extension of the state's authority over all the Lebanese territories and the ending of the Israeli occupation of parts of southern Lebanon in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The council said that the PLO is ready to cooperate with the efforts to achieve that objective in a way that would preserve the Lebanese-Palestinian brotherhood and provide protection and security to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon against the continued Israeli aggression. The PLO would also seek a guarantee regarding our people's political and social rights in the framework of Lebanese sovereignty. This includes their right to participate in the Palestinian National Council's elections, their right to work, and to establish an embassy. We also want the PLO office to be opened. I fully understand, and I am speaking not just for myself but for the Palestinian leadership, the difficulties faced by Lebanon as it tries to regain its stability and extend its government's control over its territories. [passage omitted]

Na'um: Do you believe that the U.S. Administration is serious in its current Middle East move and in its endeavors to resolve the region's crisis?

'Arafat: No, I do not believe it is serious. Had the U.S. Administration been serious, Shamir would have never dared to have turned down what was agreed upon by Baker and Levi. I do not want to say whether I accept this agreement. What I am saying is that Shamir would have never dared to say I will not withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon if the U.S. was serious. This is not all what he said. He says: I am 78 years old and I will not give any concessions during the next 1 and 1/2 years I still have in office.

Do you not think that had it not been for unlimited U.S. support, Israel would not have dared to show such rigidity. You have seen how Israel became a U.S.-European military protectorate during the Gulf war. German, Dutch, and U.S. Patriots and the U.S. aircraft carrier Forrestal were deployed in Israel. It was a military protectorate like any other Third World country. They protected it and told it not to act and it did not act. How could this Israeli submissiveness during the Gulf war become haughtiness after the Gulf war in rejecting President Bush's initiative? I tell President Bush go ahead and implement your initiative. I will tell him: Just as you have challenged the world and dispatched an armada and half a million troops to implement 11 resolutions, go ahead and implement the documents, provisions, and resolutions that would fill this house concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue. Go ahead and implement Resolution 425. Go ahead and implement the agreement concluded in Geneva between Syria and Israel according to which Israel will withdraw from the Golan. This is why U.S. and Western credibility is at a critical point.

What does Bush's plan stipulate? One point of the plan says land for peace. That was rejected by Israel. A second point of Bush's plan calls for the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. Also rejected by Israel. A third point talks about the withdrawal from the West Bank. Rejected by Israel as well. The plan then talks about the political and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Israel rejects this notion. These are four points of Bush's plan which were rejected by Israel.

Na'um: What you are saying runs counter to a concept which has prevailed in the Arab nation for a long time; namely, that the United States is Israel's "employee." Do you believe that it is an employee or the opposite?

'Arafat: No. I see Israel as the beast's claws. It wants a share of the beast's kills.

Na'um: If the United States is serious, how do you believe it can impart its seriousness to Israel?

'Arafat: It forced, by telephone, Anthony Eden, Guy Mollet, and Ben Gurion to withdraw from all of Sinai and Gaza in 48 hours.

Na'um: There are reports indicating that the Americans promised the Arabs they would do something before the U.S. presidential elections, such as the initiation of a peace process through one or more sessions or the establishment of Palestinian self-rule. You know that the Arabs always wait for such times.

'Arafat: Yes, we have only a few months and the story will be over. In any case, this is not what has been proposed. The U.S. goal is to normalize Arab-Israeli relations and to provide some kind of Palestinian cover to push through this normalization.

Na'um: Without the Palestinians being given anything?

'Arafat: What? Self-rule? Who told you we want autonomy? Would I agree to impart legitimacy to the Israeli occupation in return for autonomy? Yasser 'Arafat would not accept those terms. Who in the Arab nation would accept the normalization of relations before history, conscience, and the Arab masses before solving the Palestinian problem and while Jerusalem and Bethlehem are still occupied? Tell me which Arab would accept that? True, there are U.S. pressures on the Gulf states concerning the boycotting of certain U.S. companies, but this is one of the consequences of the war.

Na'um: What if autonomy were linked to a specific time frame to pave the way for the right to self-determination?

'Arafat: Please go ahead and tell us what the object is. Bundistan (in South Africa) is better off. He has control over the land but South Africa protects him. As for us, autonomy involves the population—but not even the entire population, only part of it—while they devour the land by housing and settlement. They will seek this opportunity for two or three years until 1995 when they will have three million Jews from the Soviet Union. This will not trick us.

Na'um: Part of Israel, the Labor Party, agrees with Bush's principle of exchanging land for peace. Do you believe that the chances for applying this principle will still exist if a change occurs inside Israel and the Labor Party assumes power?

'Arafat: The Labor Party would become like the others. Who wrecked the Jordanian-Palestinian Accord? Was it not Israel and the U.S. during Peres' regime? Did the two not waste an opportunity provided by the Jordanian-Palestinian Accord, or have we forgotten this?

Na'um: They are talking again about the Jordanian option; that is, that the United Kingdom, rather than Jordan, can be an alternative homeland. This is according to Sharon's option. What is your opinion on this?

'Arafat: We have our Palestine National Council resolution and abide by it. We are prepared to set up a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation according to the voluntary and free choice of the two fraternal peoples. This is a Palestinian-Jordanian matter, with which the United Nations, Israel, or America have nothing to do.

Na'um: In the ongoing negotiations, there is talk about the Palestinian interlocutor. Some speak about an independent delegation, some about a joint Arab delegation, and some about a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

'Arafat: He who is confident walks like a king [line of a popular Arab song].

PLO's Hurani on Peace Conference Stance

PM140143091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 17 May 91 p.3

[Muhammad 'Ab al-Qulaybi report: "'Abdallah Hurani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Three Issues Govern Palestinian Position"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In an exclusive interview 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Culture Department, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, commenting on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's fourth tour of the region which started the day before yesterday, that the ball is now in Israel's court. He added that the Palestinian side dealt with Baker's initiative "very flexibly, despite the shortcomings and loopholes in it, and it continues to deal with it on that basis."

Hurani said that the Palestinian side was concerned with the concept of any conference, so that there are three issues governing the Palestinian position: first, the Palestinian representation issue, namely, the unity of Palestinian representation from inside and outside. This, because unity of representation, means the unity of the cause. It also means extricating the issue from the Israeli concept, which insists that it is an issue that concerns the inhabitants of the occupied territories, whereas the PLO insists that the Palestinian issue concerns all Palestinians, both inside and outside, and their national rights.

Second, the issue of the conference's concept, namely, the nature of the forces taking part in it, international representation, and UN supervision. This, because on the one hand it is international representation that constitutes the arbitrative element in the question, and

on the other because it is the international character of the conference that determines the basis of the conference. So if there is international representation and UN supervision it means that arbitration will be based on the resolutions of international law.

Third, the issue of the conference's basis, since the PLO believes that the conference's basis should be international law concerning the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, including Resolution 242.

'Abdallah Hurani wondered: "If the Israeli occupation authorities are defying the international community with regard to the issue of settlement, on what basis would the conference convene?"

"If Israel continues the policy of seizing and usurping territory, there will be no territory left for us to negotiate over."

In this connection the Palestinian official called on the U.S. Administration to be firm with Israel with regard to these questions.

He expressed his hope that the United States would lead Israel to the conviction which the international community agrees on and believes are a true road to peace.

With regard to reports on the possibility of holding dialogue between Jordan and the PLO to form a joint delegation to the peace conference that Washington seeks to convene, Hurani said: "It is perhaps premature to talk now about the details of Palestinian participation and the link between Palestinian participation and Jordanian participation. What concerns us now is what will fulfill the three points I mentioned earlier: unity of representation between the inside and outside for the sake of the cause's unity; the nature of the representation at the conference, ensuring that there is international representation and that the conference is UN-sponsored; and, last, the conference's basis should be international legal resolutions. If these points are fulfilled for the conference, there will be no problem in determining the nature of Palestinian participation or a unified Palestinian-Jordanian participation."

He added: This is said not only by the PLO, but by Jordan as well, inasmuch as the PLO and Jordan will not differ on this subject.

With regard to the subject of a confederation between Jordan and the PLO, Hurani said: "There is no future for anyone, whether Palestinians or Jordanians, separated from one another, because our future is one. And the PLO fully realizes this fact through conviction and awareness, and it is working on that basis."

With regard to the future of the Palestinian military presence in Lebanon, 'Abdallah Hurani said: "The PLO has expressed—in practice, too—its willingness to facilitate the extension of Lebanese authority over Lebanon's territory. And there is full understanding on all the steps taken so far. The PLO also has the will to reach an understanding on the next steps."

Hurani emphasized that the Palestinian military presence is no longer a problem, "and we will not make it a problem in Lebanon." He indicated that the real problem in southern Lebanon is the Israeli occupation.

Khalid al-Hasan on Delegation With Jordanians

PM1405112491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 12 May 91 p 3

[Munsif al-Sulaymi report: "Khalid al-Hasan Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Joint Delegation Better for Palestinians"]

[Text] Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and official in charge of foreign relations at the Palestine National Council, has called for the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, "whether or not a provisional Palestinian government is formed," indicating that he nevertheless favors the formation of a government.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Rabat Khalid al-Hasan said that "the only alternative to a joint delegation is a Palestinian delegation from inside [the occupied territories], and the most the latter could achieve is autonomy. As for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the ultimate goal of negotiations cannot fail to be much higher."

Al-Hasan urged that formalities be disregarded, adding that "formalities are a means to arrive at a concept." He also added: "The importance of dialogue and discussion lies in the ideas raised, not in a rejection based on the rule of casting doubt or the rule of frivolity that refuses to deal with events." He emphasized that this method "has long been exercised by some people and has proved a failure."

Al-Hasan warned that "there are signs of a resurgence of the rejection front which this time," he said, "will be more harmful to the Palestinian cause if it succeeds."

He urged the Palestinians to avoid rejection and to turn to positiveness, with the final decision left to the Palestinian people. He emphasized that the PLO was going through a very critical stage. He warned that any position proceeding from individual or organizational personalism will bring nothing but disaster."

He denied that the aim of the provisional Palestinian government idea discussed at the Palestinian Central Council meeting held recently in Tunis was "to rescue the PLO Executive Committee or to limit its political influence so as to become merely an observer of events, as some people thought." He pointed out that the formation of a provisional government will not be along the lines of what exists in the Executive Committee, namely, the representation of all sensitivities.

With regard to his assessment of the PLO's policy in Lebanon, Khalid al-Hasan said that it is "proceeding correctly," with regard to its support for withdrawing the arms and

extending Lebanese authority over all Lebanese territory and with regard to its demand that the civil, social, and political rights of the Palestinians present in Lebanon should be protected and that negotiations be held with Damascus and Beirut to arrive at an honorable and peaceful formula on Palestinian arms and the Palestinian military forces, whose personnel do not live in Lebanon in the first place."

Khalid al-Hasan called for "guaranteed protection of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon against the barbaric Zionist raids."

Khalaf, 'Abd-al-Hamid Positions To Be Filled

JN1305075991 Amman AL-DUSTUR
in Arabic 13 May 91 p 19

[Text] Amman - AL-DUSTUR—A number of PLO Central Council members left Amman yesterday after

an urgent call from Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, in his capacity as head of the Fatah Central Committee; al-Za'nun, alias Abu-al-Adib; Muhammad Jihad, alias Abu-Jihad; and Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, alias Umm-Jihad.

A Palestinian official told AL-DUSTUR that the Fatah Revolutionary Council, which includes the members of the Central Committee, will discuss the issue of filling the positions of Salah Khalaf, Abu-Iyad, and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, Abu-al-Hawl, [both assassinated 14 Jan in Tunis] which are two very sensitive security positions.

The source noted that the Revolutionary Council believes that all members should be present when such a decision is made, and which will be voted on.

Egypt

Saudi Foreign Minister Hands Message to Mubarak

NC1505162591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT
15 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, during his meeting today with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Prince al-Faysal said the message falls within the context of the continuous contacts between the two Arab leaders. The latest of these contacts was a telephone call two days ago.

He added that he had conveyed the appreciation of the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the great part Egypt is playing in the Arab and international arenas. Nothing is more indicative of this, he noted, than the Arab meeting that took place within the Arab League framework and the election of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid as the league secretary general. Al-Faysal described Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid as a person of whom every Arab citizen is proud and who cares about the Arab nation's interest.

He said that President Mubarak had underlined the custodian of the two mosques' assertion of the two countries' support for the Arab League. He added that President Mubarak expressed his pleasure that this meeting is in Cairo so that we can start a new journey.

Al-Faysal was asked about reports that Saudi Arabia does not want Arab forces for security in the region, but rather prefers American and Western troops to protect the region's security. He stressed that these reports are untrue and do not deserve a response.

Asked about differences between Egypt and Saudi Arabia over security arrangements and the involvement of Arab forces in these arrangements, he said: I will not comment on this. I will not give the impression that there are differences because there is nothing of the sort.

Commenting on speculations about an imminent visit to Saudi Arabia by President Mubarak, al-Faysal said: Saudi Arabia is his country, and he is always welcome. The Egyptian citizen considers Saudi Arabia his country, so what else should we expect from a great Arab leader like President Muhammad Husni Mubarak?

Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo yesterday to lead his country's delegation at the Arab League Council meetings, which opened today.

Mubarak Receives Libyan Envoy, Message

NC1505152691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1138 GMT
15 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message today from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary general of the Libyan Popular Committee for Foreign Affairs [title as received], handed the message to Mubarak during their meeting.

Al-Bishari arrived in Cairo yesterday to attend the Arab League Ministerial Council meetings.

Yemeni President Salih Phones Mubarak

NC1505172291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT
15 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih telephoned President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this evening. They exchanged views on several issues concerning the two countries.

The Yemeni president also congratulated President Mubarak on the election of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as secretary general of the Arab League.

South Korean Presidential Envoy Arrives 9 May

NC1005065891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT
9 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Kang Yong-hun, the personal envoy of South Korean President No Tae-u, arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit of several days. He will deliver a message from the South Korean president to President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations.

He said he will meet with a number of senior Egyptian officials to discuss cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Fawzi al-Abrachi and the South Korean ambassador met him at the airport.

Meets With Ghali 13 May

NC1305124291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT
13 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Kang Yong-hun, personal envoy of South Korean President No Tae-u. They discussed ways to increase cooperation between the two countries in various fields and reviewed the current international situation, the Middle East peace endeavors, and the contribution that South Korea could make to the reconstruction efforts in the region following the Gulf war.

Kang Yong-hun arrived in Cairo on Thursday [9 May] on a six-day visit to Egypt.

Reportage on President Mubarak Visit to Europe

W41705175691

For reportage on the visit by President Husni Mubarak to the Italy, the Vatican and Luxembourg, please see the Italy & Vatican City and Benelux Countries sections of the 17 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Zimbabwe's Mugabe Arrives in Cairo

NC1305185291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1609 GMT
13 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe arrived in Cairo this evening for a three-day visit during which he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak and other senior officials on current African issues and crises, primarily the African debt issue.

Mubarak and Mugabe will also review issues on the agenda of the African summit scheduled to be held the first week of June in Abuja, the new Nigerian capital.

President Husni Mubarak received the Zimbabwean president at Cairo airport and escorted him to the al-Qubbah Palace, where he will stay during his visit.

Holds Talks With Mubarak 13 May

NC1305205991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT
13 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe held a meeting at the presidential office this evening. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said after the meeting that the talks dealt with preparations for the African summit, to be held in the Nigerian capital Abuja, and coordination among African movements to end racial discrimination in South Africa, including Egypt's contribution.

Following the talks, President Mubarak held a dinner in honor of the Zimbabwean president and his delegation which was attended by several senior state officials. President Mugabe arrived in Cairo earlier this evening for an official three-day visit.

Resumes Talks 14 May

NC1405102491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0808 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe resumed their talks at the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning. The two leaders completed their discussion of the topics raised during the round of talks held upon President Mugabe's arrival in Cairo last night.

The talks dealt with current African issues and problems, foremost among which being South Africa, the border disputes involving some African countries, and the debt

issue. The two leaders also discussed relations between Egypt and Zimbabwe and the prospects of developing these relations in various fields.

Presidents Mubarak and Mugabe discussed the issues which will be raised during the next African summit conference which will be held in the new Nigerian capital of Abuja in early June.

Mugabe Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1605072891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT
16 May 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe left Cairo for home this morning at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak lead the officials that saw him off at the airport. [passage omitted]

Abu-Talib Meets British Parliamentary Delegation

NC1605145491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, met today at the Defense Ministry with a delegation from the British House of Commons' Foreign Relations Committee, currently on an official visit to Egypt.

The conferees discussed bilateral relations, the current situation in the region following the Gulf crisis, and Egypt and Britain's role in promoting the peace process in the Gulf and the Middle East. They also exchanged views on the disarmament program within the context of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's initiative for the Middle East region to be clear of non-conventional weapons.

Staff Major General Hitler Tantawi, Defense Ministry secretary general, attended the meeting.

Al-Baz on Repatriation of Forces From Gulf

NC1605144891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1226 GMT
16 May 91

[Text] Doha, 16 May (MENA)—Dr. Usama al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has announced that the decision to withdraw the Egyptian forces from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will not affect the Damascus Declaration.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, he said that deliberate studies are under way between Egypt and the Gulf states to return these forces to the region if necessary.

Al-Baz spoke about the current efforts for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and the United States' role in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also urged Israel to stop building settlements and to submit to the international community's will to reach a peaceful solution in

the region through the establishment of international legitimacy and the application of the UN resolutions.

This was carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY.

Ghali on Arab Position on Peace Process

TA1505133991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
15 May 91 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Dan Avidan; place, date not given]

[Text] [Avidan] You recently conferred with Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh. What is the Soviet position regarding the current political initiative? What are the Soviets proposing to the sides?

[Ghali] I will not go into detail; I will just tell you that for the first time in the last 45 years, there is cooperation between the two superpowers in a bid to solve the Middle East conflict.

There have been similar instances in the past. When the State of Israel was founded, both the United States and the Soviet Union recognized it, although there was no cooperation between them at that time. Another instance of understanding between the two superpowers on the question of the Middle East occurred in 1967, when Resolution 242 was passed in the United Nations. The third time was after the Yom Kippur War, when the United Nations passed Resolution 338 following Kissinger's visit to Moscow.

In other words, cooperation between the two superpowers is always very positive and constructive in and of itself. The fact that they agreed on the principle of cooperation and that Baker and Bessmertnykh conferred in Cairo is important. Not only does it have symbolic value, but it also shows that the superpowers are for the first time interested in solving the problem of the Middle East.

[Avidan] Do they see eye to eye with regard to the regional conference?

[Ghali] I believe that one of the aspects of their cooperation is that they will reach an agreement, which is important in itself.

[Avidan] What is Egypt's position regarding the regional conference proposed by Israel?

[Ghali] Let us try to forget the words international, regional, and peace conference. What is important is to have an umbrella that will give all the parties involved a sense of security. Countries are occasionally apprehensive about direct negotiations, but will agree to enter negotiations if such an umbrella is provided.

[Avidan] What do you mean? Would the United Nations and the superpowers play a role in the regional conference's deliberations, or would they just attend the ceremonial opening session, at the end of which the negotiations would be conducted by the sides?

[Ghali] This would not be just a ceremonial conference. It is in Israel's interest to have an umbrella for the negotiations. For example, when you are faced with the problem of demilitarization (of the Arab territories) or international guarantees (for the peace arrangements), you could use the umbrella. After all, Israel was founded thanks to a UN resolution. Therefore, it is in the interest of Israel and all the sides concerned to have a strong United Nations in the future. Moreover, UN observers are stationed in the Golan Heights and elsewhere.

[Avidan] In other words, there is no chance of the Arab side accepting the Israeli perception of a regional conference in which direct negotiations between the sides would be conducted without UN intervention?

[Ghali] That is correct. As you know, I took part in the autonomy negotiations between Egypt and Israel. The Americans were not left out of the talks. They sat in the room where the negotiations were being held and helped out. The sides need a catalyst, which may sit in the room where the negotiations are being held or outside.

[Avidan] Suppose that the participating sides fail to reach an agreement. What would the role of the United Nations be then?

[Ghali] I do not want to go into details, because we have not yet agreed on them. What I am trying to do is to speak in favor of the need to have some kind of international umbrella that would play a role in the negotiations.

[Avidan] There seems to be close coordination between Egypt and Syria. Does Egypt make Syria tone down its strategic positions, while Syria makes Egypt radicalize its tactical positions?

[Ghali] I do not accept your analysis. In my opinion, everything will be done through consensus and negotiations. There are many dialectical issues. One cannot say that one element has more influence over another, or vice versa.

[Avidan] Do Egypt and Syria see eye to eye on the Baker initiative?

[Ghali] There is no Baker initiative.

[Avidan] Is there a unanimous Arab position on the U.S. initiative or do the Arab countries differ in their approach toward it?

[Ghali] There are no differences among the Arabs. The Arabs are striving to create a framework for negotiations, and in order to create such a framework, we are prepared to show the utmost flexibility. I do not know what the framework of the negotiations will ultimately be.

[Avidan] Do you think the Syrians are politically more flexible now than in the past?

[Ghali] Is Israel more flexible than before? The very fact that Egypt and Syria are conducting negotiations—which was not the case during the Camp David talks—is very positive, and the fact that Syria has changed its attitude toward Egypt and is trying to find a common denominator with it are very important matters.

[Avidan] Is al-Asad prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel similar to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, or does he intend to have nonbelligerent relations with Israel in the event of an arrangement?

[Ghali] Again, you are going into detail, and I cannot answer you. I will just say that we all have a precondition, which is solving the Palestinian problem. If the Palestinian problem is not settled, the conflict will not be resolved.

[Avidan] How can we make progress toward settling the Palestinian problem when even some of the Arab countries boycott 'Arafat?

[Ghali] Who says that the Arab countries have turned their back on the PLO? We have recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians. We do not always agree with it, we disagreed with its support for Saddam Husayn during the Gulf crisis, but a role is reserved for the PLO.

[Avidan] How does the Egyptian Government perceive the Palestinian participation in the peace process?

[Ghali] We are trying, as we have been for the past six years, to find a compromise. In other words, to include in the negotiations Palestinians with a mandate from the PLO, etc. I do not want to elaborate.

[Avidan] Do the Arabs, including Egypt, agree to the regional conference dealing only with the interim arrangements in the territories with regard to the Palestinian issue, but not with the permanent arrangement?

[Ghali] Again, I do not want to elaborate. For me, what is important is get the negotiations started. The day we agree on the procedures and start talking around the negotiating table, a new momentum will emerge that will encourage moderation and dialogue. What is most important is not to miss this opportunity and to get the talks going.

[Avidan] Do you think we now have a historic opportunity to hold negotiations?

[Ghali] Yes, because, among other things, changes have taken place in the Arab world. The Arabs have the political desire to conduct negotiations, but without the presence of a catalyst—that is, the superpowers—we will not be able to solve the conflict. Therefore, the problem is to hold the attention of the superpowers and to prevent the problem from being struck off the agenda because of some crisis breaking out elsewhere in the world.

[Avidan] Why are the Arabs unwilling to speak to Israel face to face, without the foreign intervention you call a "catalyst?"

[Ghali] Because such negotiations would fail. Based on my experience regarding al-Sadat's visit to Israel, the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian treaty, and the autonomy negotiations, I can say that without the presence of a third party, we, the people living in this region, would be unable to attain any agreements.

[Avidan] Are the Arabs prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel, as Egypt did, based on the land-for-peace formula? The Arabs have said in the past that their acceptance of Resolution 242 implies recognition of Israel and that there is no need for a peace treaty similar to the Israeli-Egyptian accords.

[Ghali] In my opinion, the day the Palestinian problem is solved there will be all-out reconciliation in the region.

[Avidan] But are the Palestinians prepared to give Israel peace in exchange for a withdrawal?

[Ghali] Yes.

[Avidan] If Israel withdraws from the West Bank and Gaza, will 'Arafat agree to sign a peace treaty with the State of Israel, as al-Sadat did?

[Ghali] I cannot speak for one person or another. My impression is that they definitely will.

[Avidan] Do you think the same applies to the Syrians? Will they be prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and a solution of the Palestinian problem?

[Ghali] Yes, definitely.

[Avidan] Are you saying that if Israel withdraws from the territories, the Arabs will be prepared to sign peace treaties with it, just as Egypt did?

[Ghali] I cannot speak for the Arabs, but my feeling is that they will.

[Avidan] Egypt will have to agree to disarmament of conventional weapons in the Middle East, as well as to the nonconventional weapons disarmament it is now preaching. After all, if Israel gets rid of its nonconventional weapons, the Arabs will have an edge over it in terms of conventional weapons.

[Ghali] It seems to me that the United Nations began discussing the idea of transforming the Middle East into a region of peace a long time ago. The moment we solve the conflict and peace is established in the region, I believe it will be in the interest of all the sides in the region to agree to impose limitations, both on conventional and nonconventional weapons.

[Avidan] Does that mean that Egypt will agree to a conventional weapons disarmament in the Middle East?

[Ghali] Yes, but only after genuine peace is established. Until that happens, Egypt believes that the Middle East must be disarmed of nonconventional weapons, because these are the arms that pose the real threat.

Journalists Acquitted of Secrets Disclosure Charge

NC1605155891 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1450 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court, led today by Commodore Muhammad Wajdi al-Laythi, acquitted 'Adil Husayn, chief editor of AL-SHA'B newspaper, the mouthpiece of the opposition Socialist Labor Party; and Huda Makkawi, one of the paper's reporters, of the charge of revealing military secrets.

The Military Prosecutor's Office had referred the chief editor and the reporter to a military court. They were charged with revealing military secrets through some reports they published in AL-SHA'B during the Gulf war.

Libya

USSR Official Praises Libya, Departs

LD1305093791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0755 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, 13 May (JANA)—Rafik Nishanov, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli yesterday evening after attending meetings of the second ordinary session of the Basic People's Congresses in the year 1400, corresponding to 1990 [as received].

In a statement to a JANA correspondent, Nishanov expressed his deep thanks for the warm welcome he and his delegation received during their stay in the Great Jamahiriyah. He also praised the direct people's democracy being implemented by the Libyan people through their people's congresses and people's committees.

The Council of Nationalities chairman also hailed the giant achievements made by the Libyan Arab people thanks to the great al-Fatih revolution in various fields of life.

Al-Qadhafi Receives King Fahd Envoy

LD1205201891 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Shaykh 'Ali Musallam, the personal envoy of King Fahd, who handed him a message from King Fahd bin-'abd-al-Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia.

The brother leader handed King Fahd's personal envoy a message concerning the current situation in the Arab region and what is now being announced by news agencies concerning the Palestinian cause.

DPRK Party Delegation Arrives Tripoli

LD1305192691 Tripoli JANA in English
1655 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, May 13, JANA—Choe Tae-pok the secretary of the central committee of the Korean Workers Party and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening.

The secretary for the affairs of trade unions and leagues at the General People's Congress welcomed him at Tripoli International Airport.

In a statement to JANA, Choe Tae-pok explained that his visit to Great Jamahiriyah comes within the framework of consolidating and developing the relations of friendship existing between those two countries.

He said "I had a chance to witness the huge achievements realised on the land Great Jamahiriyah thanks to the great al-Fatih revolution in my previous visit." He expressed admiration for the achievements of Great Jamahiriyah and a comprehensive progress made in various fields.

He confirmed the relations of friendship binding great Jamahiriyah to Korea in confronting imperialist challenges.

Opposition Said To Try Saddam Assassination

LD1105203991 Belgrade TANJUG
in English 1848 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 11 (TANJUG)—The Iraqi opposition has tried to assassinate President Saddam Husayn, but it was unsuccessful, a leader of the Iraqi Islamic Revolution Supreme Assembly (SAIRI) said here today.

This religious-political organization is based in Tehran.

In an interview to the paper JOMHURI ISLAMI, SAIRI Central Committee member Abu Asra did not say exactly when the assassination plans were made nor whether the opposition had ever tried to carry them out.

According to Abu Asra, Saddam will be removed in a military coup.

He also claims that the Baghdad authorities would have been ousted long ago "had it not been for the aid of the foreign powers".

Abu Asra charged the American force of even supplying Iraqi tank units with fuel to aid them in "the bloody quelling of [words indistinct] rebellion."

Saddam, Barzani Discuss Baghdad Agreement

LD1105150291 Berlin ADN in German
1409 GMT 11 May 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad/Berlin (ADN)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the head of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) Mas'ud Barzani, have again met in Baghdad for talks about a possible autonomy agreement. [passage omitted]

"International guarantees for an autonomy agreement remain the greatest problem," a DPK spokesman told ADN. He described as positive the latest negotiations between allied troops and the Iraqi Army about a secure return for the Kurds to Dohuk, whereby the safe-haven for refugees would be extended. The refusal announced earlier by Baghdad to allow a UN police force into the north of the country has, on the other hand, increased his compatriots' fear of returning home.

"We have had bitter experience with how those in power in Baghdad keep agreements," the spokesman said. However, there is still hope that in the future there will be some movement on the controversial issue of international guarantees for an agreement. He also hopes for a compromise on the Kurds having a share in the income from the oil reserves in the region around Kirkuk, the most important in the country. So far, the Iraqi Government has wanted to exclude the rich oil town in the north from a possible autonomous Kurdish region.

Barzani Issues Statement on Talks

JN1405183591 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH
in Arabic 13 May 91 pp 1, 7

[Text] Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, has said that his talks in Baghdad have taken an important step on the path to a solution to the Kurdish question that strengthens national unity, and that the two sides are nearing a final accord. In a statement issued in Baghdad, AFP quoted Barzani, who leads the delegation of four Kurdish parties, as saying: We are nearing, with steady steps, the final accord, which will be announced in the next few days.

Mas'ud Barzani added that everything is proceeding satisfactorily, noting that the two sides' delegations met yesterday in the presence of all their delegations and discussed the results of the meetings of the joint delegations charged with preparing the documents on the issues related to national unity and to the implementation of the 1970 agreement on autonomy in Kurdistan and the return of Kurdish citizens.

Barzani described his meeting the day before yesterday with President Saddam Husayn as very positive. He added: I discussed with His Excellency important issues to reinforce Kurdish-Arab fraternal relations.

On the absence of Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, from the second round of negotiations, Mas'ud Barzani said that he would return to Baghdad if his presence becomes necessary.

In another development, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, envoy of the UN secretary general for relief and aid affairs, met in Baghdad yesterday with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan. Citing sources close to the UN secretary general's envoy, AFP said that the talks dealt with the situation of the Kurdish evacuees, particularly the methods to increase relief aid to them.

Saddam Addresses Babil Public During Visit

JN1305064891 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH
in Arabic 9 May 91 p 3

[Report on address by Saddam Husayn during a visit to Babil Governorate on 7 May]

[Excerpts] Leader President Saddam Husayn has said that the honorable principles in which we believe as men and Iraqis are firm in our minds and in our message, to which we adhere as one people from Zakho to al-Faw.

In his address to government and party officials, dignitaries of al-Hillah, and tribal chieftains in the city the day before yesterday, he said the good ones are the pillars of this people, and that the unity we form as a people and leadership can be like a big tent covering all of Iraq.

During his address, leader President Saddam Husayn referred to the destruction caused by the American

aggression and the rioting carried out by demagogues. He said: When the enemies saw that we were united, they continued to harm us so as to undermine us morally—not physically.

He added: The enemies wanted to weaken the state of awakening, cohesion, fraternity, and unity, and to destroy what the warplanes could not reach, so as to hurt us deeply.

Leader President Saddam Husayn spoke of the ugly crimes committed by the saboteurs against our people, including rape, saying that Iraqis consider the honor of women dearer than anything, and a sacred thing in religious belief.

He said that these criminal acts were directed against every honorable Iraqi, not against women alone. They were also directed against the dignity of Iraqis, because the enemies tried, through these acts, to shake the principles in which we believe and to affect our people's morale.

The leader president toured the city, whose residents received him with joy and determination to continue the march of construction and progress under his triumphant banner.

Leader President Saddam Husayn also appeared on the balcony of the governorate building to meet the city residents, who welcomed the visit.

During his visit, leader President Saddam Husayn was also briefed by Babil Governor Tali' Khalil and Babil Branch Secretary 'Arif Kattah Suhayl on the destruction and sabotage carried out by the agent saboteurs in the governorate against public service departments and citizens' properties.

The leader president also acquainted himself with the measures taken to restore security and stability in the governorate, to reconstruct what was destroyed, and to enable the tribes and the citizens to contribute to reconstruction along with the government apparatuses.

Leader President Saddam Husayn then visited the District of al-Mahawil, whose residents received him with joy. He then had lunch on the banks of the Euphrates with the dignitaries and chieftains of the Babil Governorate tribes.

Following is the text of the address:

Half of them is enough to crush any treacherous attempt that may appear in any place. They fought bravely and honorably, and every one of them fought by himself. Ten people attacked him but he defeated them. In the capital, Baghdad, four of five appeared in two places, but who decided the situation? In one place, a party member and his son alone decided it, that is, only two in a certain place in Baghdad.

A group pretended to carry the coffin of a martyr. That might be a cover for deception and a password for the

agents. They carried it on their shoulders and marched. Some good people saw the coffin of a martyr, and a number of people accompanied it and three, four, or five of them chanted hostile slogans. It seemed that the issue was not an issue of a martyr. One of the comrades and his son then beat them and everything was over after the attempt was crushed where it happened. Note that he was one brave comrade who remembered his principles at that moment and acted accordingly to foil the evildoers' plan without harming the reputation of a whole area in Baghdad.

What happened in Iraq required such a brave man and his son, he and his ten comrades in that place, or he and his 20 comrades, not more.

Because here there is no... [changes thought] and of course, there are complicated factors, and this is a historical account, and therefore, we must be very accurate. The continuous U.S. bombardment for a month and a half, and the complete cut of transportation and fuel made every party official sit at home, particularly in timing [as published]. This is not a justification of mistakes, but a factor that we must mention—a factor that made some party officials sit at home, and some others take their families to places they believed would be safer, away from where they live with other people. This means that Ba'this in certain places behaved as ordinary people, while they are the elite. However, some of them forgot that they were the elite, or relinquished this leading role. Whenever there is a security vacuum and psychological disorder, then who should fill the vacuum? Whenever the situation is not organized, the evildoers come to the surface and put people in a state of embarrassment that appears on their faces. When I look at the faces of the al-Hillah people I can see embarrassment on their faces. This condition exists everywhere in Iraq. Embarrassment was clear on my face, and it is still clear when I meet any foreigner or an Arab, particularly the Arab, because I know how much the Arabs gave to Iraq in this momentous situation, and the Iraqi deserves this.

When one hears reports that a group of evildoers took control of the capital of al-Basrah Governorate, or another group of evildoers took control for several days of al-Hillah or al-Najaf, then he feels pain. In al-Najaf, the evildoers had official duty hours. In the morning, they would take to the square and shout anti-Iraq slogans etc., and we have an official there. May God help everyone. May God help the weak until he becomes strong, and the strong not to use his strength in a treacherous way. We also say may God help him overcome his weakness. This official instructs the party officials to fire over their heads. Does this mean that he is celebrating this, while they were shouting anti-state slogans at the most crucial stage, and carrying weapons? Despite this, the official instructed the officials to fire over their heads. Does this mean he was celebrating it?

On the media, the leader president said: It is not only the Western media, but we also have our shortcomings. When you do not hear the radio, because it was hit, what can you do?

Regarding what a comrade said about the absence of leading party officials and their going into shelters, His Excellency said: Even if a senior party cadre is martyred, is martyrdom in such a battle not considered a great honor? Is this not written in the good old books, which are better than our talk? When we believed in the party, were we sincere or liars? Were we truthful? The proof is that all the party comrades have experienced such complications for tens of years. Were the party and party members struggling to save their lives while the peoples' lives were in danger, or was it their slogan to be in the forefront? This is why, when we instructed the strugglers who stuck to their principles to attack the insurgents and to curse them, they responded very strongly. So, where was our army? Our entire army was in southern Iraq and at the General Command. I said Sabir [not further identified], call your brothers in the General Command on the phone and tell them to let any part of the Republican Guards come to us because the situation must be tackled very quickly. [passage omitted]

It is regrettable that some elements in responsible positions should have tarnished the name of the struggling, courageous party and certain places, since they committed acts unrelated to their direct responsibilities. Take, for instance, al-Hillah. The party organization in al-Hillah was an energetic branch. This is the fundamental party organization. Where was it? It was in Ninawah, al-Anbar, Salah-al-Din, Diyali, and al-Hillah. Such is the weight of the party. The party has less weighty organizations in the Central Euphrates and the southern region of Iraq.

There was a long-standing organization in al-Nasiriyah. But divisions have hurt it. There was a long-standing organization in al-Basrah, but it was undermined by splits. All these were energetic party organizations, including the one in al-Hillah. How did al-Hillah fail? This means there was a defect in the link that was supposed to have said open your eyes and be alert, organize in such and such a manner, and do this and that there and then. But it failed to act, and there we are. This happened everywhere.

What happened is painful. They implicate every brave fighter in the conspiracy and drive him out of al-Hillah. Then they collect another batch and send it to some place else. They have driven out every faithful, brave soldier. They assembled all of them and drove them out of the Governorate. [passage omitted]

His Excellency the leader president said: The leadership came up with a political initiative on 15 February, because we had sought a solution that would preserve dignity and rights hoping to stanch the blood. A man came to me and said: The people are upset, and so is the party. I said: Why? He said because the initiative had failed to give them a chance to fight the Americans. Although this does not reflect our policies, it is indicative of high morale. But should it not be real talk? What would the situation be like, when in times of crisis we

discover that this man who tells me that the people and party are upset does not lead the people and party properly?

Does this not mean that the words spoken to me by this man are inaccurate? This is unacceptable. Is it unacceptable that men deal with each other this way? May God bless good men. [passage omitted]

Responding to a request by one of those present that His Excellency the president not be upset by Babil, the leader president said: When a bridge breaks down it is important that its supports be in good order. If traffic should come to a halt in crossing and the supports were in working order, we would repair it and rely on God.

The house is in front of you and is founded on these columns. The columns are in good shape, and you are these columns and not the son of this or that woman. Most of these are named after their mothers. I know that in al-Nasiriyah, when it is asked who did this or that, it is said the son of this or that woman. They do not say it was done by the son of this or that man. The same applies in al-Hillah. It is said that this or that was done by the son of this or that woman. They do not say the son of this or that man. How could we be angry at the son of this or that man on account of the son of this or that woman. This is not permissible.

His Excellency praised the manly attitude of those who stood up for Iraq and the revolution. His Excellency said: We set such store by the men of Iraq.

His Excellency the leader president said we cannot say that nothing has happened. Iraq has been through a hard time. I do not mean by this the outside aggression by thirty or more states. I mean the treachery, which has hurt the psychology and morale of Iraqis. I know as well as you do that the brunt of the evil came from Iran by infiltration. But we must say that evil people of which no society can claim to be free joined the Iranians. All of you are Muslims and believers, God willing. [passage omitted]

A brother in the audience said we hope you will not be displeased with us, that is, displeased with al-Hillah. Had I been displeased nothing would have happened; if I get upset and boycott the people, the enemies need not have done all this against you. I do not say against me but against you, until we, all of us, people and leadership, found that unity is the large tent that shelters Iraq from Zakho to al-Faw without leaving room for response and harm. When they saw that we became united, they began to do us more harm in a bid to undermine our moral, and not material, status.

They sought to paralyze our alertness, cooperation, brotherhood, and one fabric, but they knew that the destruction caused by the American aircraft and those of the 30 countries collaborating with them would not cause us the desired psychological rift because that was a foreign international aggression. Therefore, they devised a way to make us harm ourselves in the hope that this

psychological harm would upset our balance and make Saddam Husayn feel displeased with himself, his brothers, his people, his (?swords), his soldiers, and his banner, hoping that displeasure would lead to estrangement. Excuse me for saying Saddam Husayn because I mean the leadership.

What was their target? They aimed at destroying what could not be reached by aircraft. They destroyed what could not be reached by the foreign aircraft in a bid to make the pain penetrate deep. Before this, they violated the people's honor, and honor is our dearest possession.

Honor rises to the level of religious creed and the one who violates the honor of an Iraqi woman harms us all. I do not conceal this... he would inflict psychological harm on us as Iraqis wherever we may be, in al-Mahawil or al-Hindiyah, al-Najaf or Salah al-Din, because such a heinous deed is directed against every honorable Iraqi and not only against the woman or house in which it took place. It is against our dignity.

The enemies wanted to say: Why are you talking about exalted honor? Why are you talking about the glorious Iraqi woman? Why are you saying honor is better than daily bread? In all this they—let them be disgraced—tried to undermine the principles we uphold. They tried to undermine the people's morale. But we—brothers—should not allow the honorable principles in which we believe as men and Iraqis to waver.

I believe that man himself—and I do not mean the politician, but the illiterate man in the rural areas—has principles and they are big principles. We must guard against allowing principles to be shaken in our minds, be they the principles of men or the principles of the mission in which we believe.

We believe that we are one people from Zakho to al-Faw, and the good ones among this people are the pillars. The wicked ones cannot have good qualities wherever they are. It is impermissible to say that al-Hindiyah is not good simply because bad ones appeared there, but we say the bad ones are not good wherever they are and wherever they appear. [passage omitted]

Further on Saddam Speech in al-Fallujah

*JN1605173891 Baghdad AL-IRAQ
in Arabic 15 May 91 p 3*

[Report on speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to residents of al-Fallujah district in al-Anbar Governorate on 14 May]

[Excerpts] Leader President Saddam Husayn has said: The residents of al-Fallujah are known family by family, especially the time-honored and ancient families which I know. I hope the city of al-Fallujah will be an exemplary one. I also wish the residents of al-Fallujah well, because they deserve all that is good and because they are good workers. [passage omitted]

In response to a question by one of the attendees on the return of prisoners of war from Iran, the leader president said: You are well aware that there are certain things which we can do, and there are other things which we have no control over. We entreat God to enable us to achieve even those good things over which we have little control. God willing, the POW's will return. I hope that the Iranian officials who (talk) of Islam and faith will listen to these words of yours. We will spare no efforts to perform this duty. Furthermore, I hope that these words of yours will reach the ears of deviants, those who employ double standards, and those who speak of international law and international legitimacy. A large number of POW's remain in Iran. As for Iranian officials, they have reneged on their pledges and broken their promise, thus recalling their bad conduct.

Then His Excellency the president thanked God and praised Him, for we have men with such a high level of faith, determination, and readiness for sacrifices, and with such strong opinions. [passage omitted]

Satellite Ground Station Begins Operations

*JN1605154691 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1430 GMT 16 May 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—The satellite communications ground station began experimental operation, linking Iraq to countries around the world as of today to pave the way for the reintroduction of the station's regular services.

In a statement to INA, Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini said that the technical agencies in charge of repairing this station tested it today with several ground stations in the world through the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization-Intelsat, which facilitates telephone and telex communications between Iraq and other countries.

The minister added that within the next few days Iraq will be able to restore the operation of all telephone, telex, and other communication services with other countries to the way it was before the onset of the aggression. He said that the station repair was done in record time, 45 days, using pure Iraqi expertise.

The transport and communications minister pointed out that the station, which normally provides telephone and telex service between Baghdad and the governorates and other countries, and which also transmits television signals to the governorates, will expand extensively after it takes on 12 additional telex channels which are currently operating between Iraq and other countries through the fraternal Kingdom of Jordan.

Work in Progress To Rebuild Radio Station

JN1605094691 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0910 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—Work is currently in progress to rebuild the al-Hurriyah [Freedom] Radio building, which was bombed by the aircraft of the 30-state aggression.

Head of the al-Mu'tasim Contracting Company, the project contractor, told INA that his company is renovating and rebuilding the 500-square meter building with its own resources according to the set plans and standards.

He added that the design details and the use of alternatives for the interior and technical services are being prepared in coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Information.

The construction in the al-Hurriyah Radio building is scheduled to be completed in July to help cover all areas in Iraq with radio transmission.

Council of Ministers' Powers Draft Law Approved

JN1505184491 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1727 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—The approval of the draft law on the Council of Ministers for the year 1991 was announced here today. This law grants the Council many powers based on the draft constitution presented by the leadership for discussion last year.

Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, said in a statement to INA that the draft law approved during the Council of Ministers' meeting chaired by Sa'dun Hammadi grants the Council the authority to prepare draft laws and refer them to the

president for legislative consideration in accordance with the constitution. It can also prepare draft regulations and issue them.

He said the draft law also grants the Council the authority to follow up on the implementation of legislative acts, issue the necessary resolutions to implement them, and supervise the legitimacy of instructions issued by any specific minister to facilitate implementation of the laws and regulations.

The minister of culture and information added that in accordance with the law, the Council will be given the authority to prepare the unified draft general budget and the development plan. It will also follow up on its proper implementation, sign contracts for loans, and supervise foreign economic and financial affairs and relations according to the directives of the president of the Republic. In addition, it will also be given the authority to appoint the general managers and heads of administrative units who do not hold special grades.

He added that the Council also approved the draft law organizing the licenses and operations of non-governmental consulting offices specializing in economic, legal, industrial, and other affairs. This law specifies the conditions under which these offices can be set up, how they can be licensed, and how they can practice their professional commitments.

The minister of culture and information said that the Council rejected a proposed amendment for the law regulating lawyers' activities. The amendment provides that it would not be permissible for a lawyer to be to a legal consultant for more than one bank, more than one official department, more than two Iraqi companies, or more than two Iraqi projects; and that it would not be permissible for a lawyer to be a legal consultant for more than one Iraqi company or one industrial project together with a foreign company. This is because such an amendment would kill competition for good performance among lawyers and curb the freedom of departments and companies in selecting legal advisers according to their efficiency.

Reportage Continues in Aftermath of Baker Visit

Agreements on Peace Conference Reported

TA1605161791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] The United States and Israel agreed today that a peace conference would not be a coercive and binding forum and would not be able to enforce decisions or resolve disputes emerging between the sides in direct negotiations. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that another agreement reached in Baker's meeting with Prime Minister Shamir and Ministers Levi and Arens talks about giving preference to the possibility of establishing a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that would include Palestinians from the territories.

More on Agreements

TA1705082991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
17 May 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Israel has agreed to examine some U.S. compromise proposals regarding the UN role in the peace talks and the continuity of the opening session, if these proposals are accepted by Jordan's King Husayn. This was announced last night by political sources in Jerusalem at the end of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's talks in Israel.

Israel yesterday agreed to call the opening of the negotiations a "peace conference," the title favored by Syria. Israel also consented in principle to a European presence in the opening session, according to conditions to be agreed on by Israel and the EC. [passage omitted]

Although the question of the UN role and the continuity of the conference remains unsolved, sources in Jerusalem noted that "possibilities for bridging these problems" had been raised. Israel agreed to have Baker put these proposals to the Arab side. The Americans see this as a clear sign that if the compromise proposals are accepted by the Arabs, Israel will follow suit.

According to initial information released last night, the United States is proposing that the United Nations be given a "report" about the course of the negotiations by the conference's sponsors, the United States and the Soviet Union, and that the UN role should also be mentioned in the letters of invitation to the conference. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also agreed to the UN presence in a "closing international conference," whose role would be to ratify agreements signed by the sides, and consented to have these agreements deposited with the United Nations.

Shamir also agreed to the "continuity" of the parley scheduled to discuss regional subjects such as water, arms control, the environment, etc. The Americans may be able to persuade Jordan that these forums also receive a "report" about the proceedings of the bilateral political

negotiations. Israel proposed that in view of the lack of agreement about the negotiations, the process be launched by the regional parley. The Americans promised to examine this proposal, although they see no chance of it being accepted by the Arabs.

The United States promised Israel that the status of Jerusalem would not be discussed in the initial stages of the negotiations and apparently committed to oppose a repartitioning of the city. Israel agreed to the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and both sides agreed that the Palestinians would be represented by inhabitants of the "territories," a term which the United States views to include East Jerusalem.

Political sources noted that progress had also been made on the question of the Palestinian representation, but they refused to elaborate. In his briefing to journalists, Baker also said that he had received from Israel "something to work with" on the question of the Palestinian representation.

Contrary to the position voiced by officials in the prime minister's bureau last week, Israel welcomed the willingness of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries to send an observer to the opening session and to take part in the regional negotiations. [passage omitted]

Shamir Interviewed on Talks

TA1605193391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 May 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Imanu'el Halperin in Shamir's office "earlier this evening"—recorded]

[Text] [Halperin] Mr. Prime Minister, good evening.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Halperin] You speak about hope, about progress in the talks with Baker. Are those just nice words to disguise what is simply a failure?

[Shamir] There is no failure here, and it is not just a question of hope. This is a very serious operation, a big effort to settle a complicated and complex conflict. I very much hope—and there are reasons and grounds for my hopes—that Mr. Baker is on the right track to a solution of the conflict.

[Halperin] So what is the progress we are talking about? What did you agree on with Baker this time that was not agreed on a week ago?

[Shamir] We agreed on several issues that cannot yet be publicized, issues that will enable Baker to engage in close and positive contacts with the prospective partners to the peace operation.

[Halperin] Who are they?

[Shamir] Everybody knows who the candidates are, and I do not want to spell them out.

[Halperin] Is Syria included in the list?

[Shamir] Everybody is on the list, although there certainly are different nuances and emphases.

[Halperin] Why this obstinate opposition to a UN observer, to a conference that would receive periodic reports? After all, these are technical rather than essential matters.

[Shamir] These are not just technical matters, not at all. I can tell you that all the issues on which we and the United States supposedly differ are dwarfed in the face of the considerations that weigh in the decisions of the other sides. Whether there will be a UN observer or not makes no difference to the attainment of the objective. A great thing was achieved at Camp David without a UN representative present. So, what is the big deal?

[Halperin] Perhaps you are not making those minor concessions out of fear for the integrity of the coalition.

[Shamir] This has got nothing to do with the coalition. It is the firm conviction that, when it comes to the relations with its neighbors, Israel must steer as far away as possible from the United Nations. We have a long history with that organization. We have always been hurt and abused by it, and we should steer clear of it.

[Halperin] Is Jordan now willing to take part in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the negotiations?

[Shamir] You must address that question to the Jordanians and the Americans.

[Halperin] Secretary Baker probably informed you about it.

[Shamir] Baker has some evaluations, some things he told us for our ears only. I think there is interest, both in Jordan and in other countries, in taking part in the process.

[Halperin] How did you solve the problem of the Arabs of East Jerusalem? For instance, will you agree to have Faysal al-Husayni, a resident of East Jerusalem, taking part in a joint delegation as a Jordanian representative?

[Shamir] First of all, I would like to make clear: Jerusalem is not subject to any negotiating process. As far as Israel is concerned, Jerusalem is Israel's capital, period. Jerusalem, be it the western or the eastern part of the city, is not up for any negotiations whatsoever. There is only one Jerusalem.

[Halperin] Still, how did you solve the problem?

[Shamir] There is nothing to solve. The problem is solved. Jerusalem is ours.

[Halperin] In other words, you are saying that Faysal al-Husayni cannot take part in the deliberations.

[Shamir] Can they not be held without him?

[Halperin] There are prominent Palestinian figures, leaders of the Palestinian population in the territories...

[Shamir, interrupting] According to the Camp David Accords, the negotiations with Israel should be conducted by Arabs residing in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Jerusalem is not part of those areas.

[Halperin] Was that agreed with the Americans?

[Shamir] That is our approach.

[Halperin] I am asking you whether that was agreed with the Americans.

[Shamir] Well, that is our approach.

[Halperin] Sir, what now? Are we in for a long pause during which new routes will be sought, or will Baker's efforts continue within the next few days and weeks?

[Shamir] I do not believe there is any need for a pause. In my opinion, based on the intensity of Baker's actions—for which he deserves appreciation—I hope the effort will continue at the same pace and with the same energy. I think long pauses are unnecessary. We can make progress toward the implementation of the plan.

[Halperin] Meaning that a conference will be held soon?

[Shamir] A conference or a parley in which direct and bilateral negotiations would be launched between Israel and its neighbors.

[Halperin] Do you think it is realistic to talk about a conference being held soon?

[Shamir] I believe that is the only way to settle the conflict. If all the pertinent sides have good will, that will be feasible and realistic.

[Halperin] Sir, thank you very much.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Arens on Talks, Syrian Moves

TA1705083091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0405 GMT 17 May 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning, Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Golan] We would naturally like to ask you about the political process and request your assessment of the talks with Baker. Yet in view of the recent reports that Syria is swallowing up Lebanon and is itself swelling up in the process, we would first like to ask you whether this requires an Israeli reaction. How do we view this?

[Arens] First of all, it is a fact that during the Gulf crisis, when world attention focused on the Gulf and Syria became a member of the coalition, it unobtrusively began swallowing up Lebanon. It is now in the midst of

that process. I believe this conflicts with all acceptable norms in the international world. These norms were evoked in reference to Saddam Husayn's swallowing up of Kuwait. The Syrian move contains dangers for Israel as well.

[Golan] But in this case we cannot expect the United States to react the way it did to Saddam Husayn; perhaps the opposite is true.

[Arens] I would not expect a reaction similar to the Kuwait case, but neither would I expect the opposite. We maintain contacts with the U.S. Administration.

[Golan] Minister Arens, meanwhile, as the results of Baker's talks indicate, it seems that Syria will not be part of the process because of its intransigence and because of our opposition to the inclusion of the United Nations and to turning the conference into a prolonged affair. How significant can a political process be without Syria, which Israel views as its most dangerous enemy?

[Arens] First of all, you have just outlined the reasons why Syria will not, or will not want to, participate, but I am not sure you are right. Should Syria decide not to participate, the main reason would be that it simply does not want to reach peace with Israel. It is not prepared to enter into direct negotiations with Israel. This should not come as too much of a surprise to us, as the history of Syria—and particularly that of its leader, al-Asad—has for years been one of hostility toward Israel and wars against it. Still, I do not believe the peace process can be advanced without Syria. There are additional countries that share borders with Israel....

[Golan, interrupting] Jordan.

[Arens] Certainly, but there are other Arab countries that maintain a state of war with Israel. We are prepared and want to reach peace with each of them together, if they all agree to do that, or with only one country, if only that country wants that.

[Golan] How would you sum up the talks with Baker? Was progress made or was there a deadlock? According to reports from Washington, the assessment is that he did not fail but, by the same token, he also did not succeed, as there is still no agreement on a conference.

[Arens] You know, everything is relative in this world. It all depends on one's expectations. Thus, those who expected a breakthrough and expected that after years of hostility and wars the Middle East would, in a week or a month, see peace among all the nations may be disappointed, thinking that not much has come out of the talks.

[Golan] In any case, you would agree that there was no breakthrough?

[Arens] I do not think a breakthrough should be expected in this case. The Middle East peace process is slow. That is because most of the Arab countries are not interested in making peace with Israel and have no special incentive to do so. I therefore believe that those who realize

that it is a slow process also understand that it requires a great deal of effort, perseverance, and patience. One should expect slow progress and be very happy when it is achieved. I think we have that.

[Golan] YEDI'OT AHARONOT this morning claims that Baker told you, Prime Minister Shamir, and Foreign Minister David Levi yesterday: Get serious.

[Arens] I did not hear such a comment from him, and I must say that from time to time the media manages to surprise me when every few weeks, like a wave that returns to the shore, it again mentions a crisis, an ultimatum, pressure on us, sanctions, and God knows what else. These are tones that have not at all arisen in the deliberations.

[Golan] Finally, Mr. Defense Minister, you believe there is a chance for a limited process involving Jordan and the Palestinians alone, but do you not fear that during such limited negotiations Israel will face the demand to return the territories, because as far as Jordan is concerned, these are areas it controlled until 1967?

[Arens] First of all, one should not approach such a process with fear. The demand that we give up territory or that absurd formula of territory for peace are nothing new to us; we have heard them day in and day out for years. We are interested in peace, and we know that in every peace settlement we must guarantee the security of the state. We will do so fearlessly.

[Golan] Minister Arens, thank you very much.

[Arens] Thank you very much.

Further Arens Remarks

TA1605165091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1600 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens this evening said that he was under the impression that the differences regarding the peace process had been reduced during Secretary of State Baker's talks. The defense minister stressed that reports of U.S. pressure on Israel had no basis in fact. Our correspondent 'Ido Baum spoke with the defense minister.

[Begin recording] [Baum] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that James Baker made no attempt to finalize agreements during his recent visits, but instead attempted to bridge the differences between the parties' positions. Arens pointed out that Israel still advocates direct negotiations with the Arab countries, and right now progress depends on the attitude taken by the Arabs. The defense minister, nevertheless, was optimistic when summing up today's talks with the U.S. secretary of state.

[Arens] I am under the impression that there has been a reduction in the differences between the parties that eventually will have to participate jointly in the meeting that is supposed to lead to direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. I hope I am right.

[Baum] Arens dismissed the spate of rumors suggesting that the Bush administration was pressuring Israel to moderate its positions. Those rumors occasionally turn up in the press, Arens said. The defense minister also commented on the chances of demilitarizing the Middle East. He asserted that this would be impossible without the agreement of the countries supplying weapons to the Arab countries.

[Arens] I think that today there is greater awareness than in the past. We are trying to increase the awareness of the international community and the countries in the region of the fact that the immense quantities of weapons possessed by the Arab armies constitute the most destabilizing factor in the region. Iraq was but one example of that. That fact could lead to more wars, just as it led to the conflict in the Gulf. [end recording]

Baker Tour Called 'Test of U.S. Credibility'

TA1505190191 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
13 May 91 pp 12, 11

[Article by AL-FAJR editor Radi al-Jara'i: "Will Baker's Tour Be the Last One?"]

[Text] During the Gulf crisis a feeling prevailed among Israeli statesmen that at the end of the crisis pressure would be exerted upon them to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. The Gulf crisis focused world attention on the need to solve the Palestinian problem if this region is to experience a period of political, economic, and social stability. Israeli Prime Minister Shamir realized that fact, and he also realized that he might be subjected to pressure from within the Likud itself to make some concessions.

Shamir and his defense minister, Moshe Arens, were among those who opposed even the Camp David accords. Ideologically, Shamir is against concessions in principle, and the slogan "not even one inch" belongs to him. He strived to include all the Israeli radical right-wing forces in his government, the last of whom was Rehav'am Ze'evi, famous for the theory of transfer; that is, the expulsion of the Arabs from Palestine. I believe that that was preparation by Shamir for the current phase, since any concession, no matter how slight, will be strongly opposed by those forces and will, therefore, endanger the government's stability. That is what caused the government to back down from the agreement reached by David Levi and James Baker on the regional conference. That was also the reason for the government's denial of Israeli Health Minister Ehud Olmert's remarks in Washington regarding negotiations over the Golan Heights. If the current pressures on the Israeli Government were to increase—that is, if there are pressures at all—Shamir will actually resort to dissolving the government and to holding new elections. That is the best way to waste time and evade any foreign pressure. Elections require at least six months. Then the U.S. elections will approach, and the U.S. Administration will be distracted from the Middle East. The Middle East file

will then be placed in the deep freeze, and the region will revert to the same vicious cycle in which it has been for a long time.

U.S. credibility, however, is in the balance now. There was a Palestinian perception that Baker's tours were aimed at containing the resentment and hostility produced by the Gulf war in the conscience of the Arab nation in its different regimes, and that there was no real U.S. intention to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem, although Baker and Bush were trying to give the impression that they were actually searching for a peaceful settlement to the problem.

Despite this, Palestinians inside and outside the territories have tacitly agreed to test U.S. intentions with regard to the peace process in general, and the Palestinian problem in particular.

Baker's tour this week will be a test of U.S. credibility, although there already is negative evidence of that credibility found in U.S. statements that no pressure will be exerted on Israel. This tour, though, will set the record straight. I believe that even if the United States were to attempt to exert any pressure on Shamir, he will resort to the elections game to waste time. What will be the American, European, and international response should Shamir resort to such a game? Will the world sit idle in the face of the squandering of what is described as the unique opportunity for peace?

A few Israeli circles believe that some economic reforms, a slight easing of the tax burden, and some simple measures will constitute a suitable means for slowing down the intifadah and serve as a prelude to ending it. They would thus be relieved of the pressure generated by the intifadah in world conscience, which is translated into pressure on Israel. Some influential Israeli circles believe that the acceleration of settlement, expansion of existing settlements, confiscation of more land, and voluntary expulsion—due to the deteriorating economic situation—is the best solution.

Israeli policy, however, has inured us to the "trial and error" approach in its dealing with the intifadah. This time, though, Israeli policy is committing an error in its evaluation of how to deal with the intifadah.

I believe that the Palestinians are now giving peace a chance, and that this period, marked by "some relative calm," is the calm before the storm. The Palestinians still entertain a ray of hope that their problem will be solved by peaceful means. They have shown a flexibility not shown by the other side, and they are expressing their readiness to make a positive and constructive contribution to the peace process.

Squandering the present peace opportunity will lead the region in general, and the occupied territories in particular, into an escalating cycle of violence that might extend also into a war against U.S. interests. The

region now is awaiting the outcome of the current stage. It is a test not only of U.S. credibility, but also of international legitimacy.

In a conversation I had with a U.S. diplomat who recently visited the al-Duhayshah refugee camp, he told me that he was surprised by lack of hostility in teenagers toward Americans. I said to him: "We still entertain a ray of hope that our problem will find its way to a solution, but if we lose that hope, the region will become exposed to explosions the results of which no one can forecast." Then Baker's current tour will be the last one.

Shamir Says Jerusalem Not Topic for Negotiation

TA1205172491 *Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 12 May 91*

[Unedited excerpts from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's speech at a Jerusalem Day immigrant rally on 12 May 1991; communicated by the prime minister's media adviser"—GPO headline]

[Text] The thing occurred 24 years ago—IDF [Israel Defense Forces] fighters broke through to East Jerusalem and liberated it. Many of them paid with their lives—and their memory will be ingrained in the nation's heart for eternity. Since that day, when the Israeli flag was hoisted for the first time atop the Temple Mount, a new holiday has been added to the Israeli calendar—the day Jerusalem was liberated and reunited.

Two days ago, was, from a certain perspective, a historical day in Jerusalem—when the Soviet foreign minister entered the city. For the first time in Israel, a guest of such seniority from the USSR, held political talks with representatives of the Israeli government, as equals among equals. We discussed the peace process with him and explained to him that thus far Israel has demonstrated willingness for peace and has made more than a few concessions in order to bring about direct negotiations. Not so the Arabs. They have shown no sign of sincere and true willingness for peace and for accepting Israel. They set their eyes on Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip—and East Jerusalem as well.

We told them, and we repeat and say from here as well—from the heart of Jerusalem: Israel's capital will never again be a divided city, a city with a wall at its center, a city in which two flags fly. This city, will, in its entirety, absorb immigrants, welcome pilgrims and be the eternal capital of Israel for ever.

We told our guest from the USSR, that we thank his government for opening its borders and enabling the exit of Jews, and he promised that there is no future intention to limit emigration or close the exit gates.

The immigrants who arrive here every day and every evening, strengthen us in consolidating Zion and building our national Jewish homeland in Israel. Against the background of Arab threats, PLO terror, knives and stone-throwers, we absorb the immigrants, become

stronger and progress toward a better future. We will do all in our power (to achieve) peace, but not at the price of making concessions regarding our security and our unimpeachable right to Israel and Jerusalem.

Our eternal capital will develop more and more, forge eastward and westward, will be a city of peace, a city which absorbs Jewish populations of all sects—religious and secular, a city that will ensure freedom of worship to all beliefs, a city surrounded by many neighborhoods in which free Jewish life is cultivated.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic at 1600 GMT carries a recorded portion of the prime minister's remarks in Hebrew at another rally on the same occasion, in which Mr. Shamir says: "From time to time we come across all sorts of people, both in Israel and abroad, who mention the question of Jerusalem as if it were a basis for negotiation, as if it, the capital of any country in the world, were the topic of negotiation. As far as the State of Israel is concerned, words are unnecessary. Its position, both on the domestic and the international fronts, is written in The Basic Law; Jerusalem, the Capital of Israel, whose first clause states: Unified and united Jerusalem is the capital of Israel—and the less said the better.

["But perhaps even beyond that, this is a command engraved in our hearts, because the rocks of Jerusalem are the soul of our nation. This is in no way meant to hurt the inhabitants of Jerusalem who are not Jews, whom we respect, whose rights we honor, and whose holy shrines—which the Basic Law; Jerusalem stipulates should be protected from desecration or any other harm—we guard and will continue to guard painstakingly.

["Perhaps no other city deserves to be the city of peace as Jerusalem—reunited Jerusalem, said by sages to unite the Israeli people and make them one; to be the city from which the call no more war, which we address to all the countries of the region, should go forth."]

Peres Briefs Shamir on Meeting With President Bush

TA1405100891 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 14 May 91*

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning, and briefed the prime minister on his meeting with U.S. President George Bush.

Peres told Shamir that the Labor Party would support the Likud Government from the outside on all issues that pertained to the furtherance of the peace process. Peres noted, however, that the reestablishment of a national unity government was not on the agenda.

Upon leaving the Prime Minister's Office, Peres told our political correspondent Natan Gutman that the meeting between himself and Shamir was matter of fact and succinct.

Palestinian Attorney Outlines Peace Plan

TA1305162391 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 13 May 91 p 9

[Interview with Talal 'Afifa al-Safi, member of the editorial staff of the East Jerusalem daily AL-FAJR, by Pinhas 'Inbari; place and date not given]

[Text] The name Talal 'Afifa al-Safi does not mean much to a lot of Israelis. Not so in the territories. The young attorney, who was born in 1953 and resides in Jerusalem, is a well-known intifadah activist. In that respect he is known to the Israeli security forces, and he has even had the "honor" of seeing the Israeli prison system from inside. In 1980 he was held in administrative detention for three months. Three years later he was incarcerated once again, for a four-month term, for leading youth gangs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. For two years, between 15 January 1984 and 15 January 1986, he was forbidden to enter the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. After the intifadah broke out, he was under administrative detention for two years for heading Fatah's operations in the Jerusalem area. At present he is a member of the daily AL-FAJR's editorial staff. Here he published his peace plan.

'Afifa al-Safi's plan includes several elements that indicate flexibility, as far as Israel is concerned, such as leaving the Jerusalem problem for the later stages and a readiness to discuss various solutions to that problem. Minister Arens may be pleased with the suggestion on municipal elections and the more general proposal that the delegation for the negotiations be elected rather than leaving the entire job to Faysal al-Husayni. On the other hand, al-Safi's insistence on the formulation of the permanent solutions and on granting broad powers to Palestinian authority, even during the interim period, as well as his views on accommodating the returning refugees in the settlements, will not be very popular in Israel. In any case, this peace plan was formulated by a true blue intifadah activist. As such, it merits review.

['Inbari] What is the main point in your plan?

[Al-Safi] The settlement will be made over a period of five years: In the first year, Israel and the PLO will make several goodwill gestures. At the outset, Israel will stop the settlements, deportations, and demolition of houses; release all the administrative detainees and intifadah prisoners; open all the institutions of learning, culture, and sport clubs; and agree to municipal elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Six months later there will be elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Two hundred Palestinians in five voting areas will be elected. They will meet and elect 10 public figures—two from each area; the West Bank will be divided into three regions and the Gaza Strip into two.

In the second year, direct talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will start in Cairo under the supervision of international observers from the United States, the USSR, the EC, and Egypt, an Arab state that

maintains good relations with Israel and the Palestinians. The talks will deal with a three-year interim period. A Palestinian administration will be set up for an interim period, and it will have various powers, such as the setting up of ministries dealing with the livelihood of the people and issues pertaining to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In the third year, there will be talks between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and Israel, within the framework of an international conference, together with the five permanent members of the Security Council, in order to work out a permanent solution for the territories, which will be a lasting, all-inclusive, and just solution. On the basis of those talks, a demilitarized Palestinian state must be set up so that Israelis do not fear it will threaten them. The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will be made up by the PLO of Palestinians "inside" and "outside." In the final stage, there will be peace talks between the Palestinian state and the State of Israel and all the Arab states that participate in the international conference. During those talks, decisions will be made to set up diplomatic, economic, and trade ties and good neighborly cooperation between the states of the region.

['Inbari] What is the difference between your plan and the political initiatives currently being raised by Baker and Bessmertnykh on a regional conference?

[Al-Safi] There is no great difference, but there are some points of difference between my proposals and those currently being discussed. I propose holding elections in the territories to decide who will negotiate with Israel, so that no unelected people will be negotiating with Israel. I demand goodwill gestures as a condition for conducting the elections. For the interim period I demand wide-ranging powers for the Palestinian administration, such as, for example, the airport at Qalandiyah. I also demand that during the interim period Palestinians be able to set up radio and television stations; that they receive authority to set up industrial plants without having any obstacles put in the way; and that they receive the authority to establish ministries, such as justice, trade, and housing ministries, and a ministry for general affairs, which in fact is a ministry for foreign affairs. I also demand that during the interim period a committee be set up to deal with the Palestinians deported in the period from 1948 to the present. The Palestinians who return will live in settlements close to the Palestinian population centers and will be given financial compensation. The Palestinian state will be demilitarized. Jerusalem will be inside the Palestinian state or become an international city under UN supervision.

['Inbari] How did you work out your plan?

[Al-Safi] I started working on the plan when I was in the al-Shati' prison in 1989, but I worked on it intensely during the Gulf crisis after the balance of forces changed in Israel's favor.

[Inbari] What is the difference between the interim stage and the final stage? According to your proposal, the two stages are quite similar since already in the interim stage there are ministries and clear signs of a state.

[Al-Safi] There is a difference. The powers during the interim stage are not full powers. Foreign affairs and defense matters will to a large extent be in Israel's hands. In the West Bank and the Gaza Strip there will be symbolic international forces. Full authority will come only after the talks on the final stage.

[Inbari] But if there are ministries, an airlines, radio and television, then that is a state.

[Al-Safi] Those are points to be discussed over time. Agreement is required.

[Inbari] You refer to an elected Palestinian delegation to the negotiations. What is your opinion about the talks currently being conducted by the Palestinians, such as the meetings with Baker? They are not Palestinians elected according to your criteria.

[Al-Safi] In the first stage, the Palestinians who negotiate will be elected. I do not want to talk about what is happening now. As long as the PLO agrees to it, let it be, but it is preferable to hold elections so that people will not come and say that so and so is not wanted or is not representative, and so forth. In my plan there are foundations that have already been brought up, such as an independent government with wide-ranging powers. It is clear, however, that we will not agree to any interim period if the final and overall settlement that will come at the end of the process is not assured. The interim stage is of no importance. What is important is that there will be a final solution that will assure the Palestinians and the Israelis of an end to the killing and destruction.

[Inbari] There is a new phenomenon that those voicing new ideas are "internal" Palestinians, while the "outside" is not proposing anything except for political maneuvers. Is that natural?

[Al-Safi] The Palestinians in the occupied territories began to come up with proposals after the Gulf crisis so that the "outside" gets to know the mood inside. I want to stress that the Palestinians insist that during the interim period it will also be clear that the final result is a state. That is also the case with the PLO. In any proposal made by any of the sides, Israel must agree to talk with the PLO. There are enough elements in the PLO capable of advancing peace, and they are interested in solving the Palestinian problem within the framework of peace with Israel. Everybody wants to promote peace: Baker comes and goes, the Soviet foreign minister comes, the Europeans are interested, and so are the Palestinians. The question is whether the Government of Israel in its present form is also interested in peace.

Reportage on Visit by Hungarian Premier Antall

Budapest Radio Reports Agreements

LD1405112591 Budapest Domestic Service
in Hungarian 1000 GMT 14 May 91

[Report from Jerusalem by Mihaly Erdei-Grunwald]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The official [Hungarian-Israeli] discussions began in the prime minister's office. Prime minister Yitzhaq Shamir first of all received the Hungarian prime minister in his study for an exclusive, so-called *tete-a-tete*, discussion. Then the plenary session was held in the cabinet room of the prime minister's office. At the end of this discussion, virtually in these minutes, they signed the agreements which were actually ready six months ago, but, as will be recalled, the Hungarian prime minister's trip last November had to be postponed on account of his hospital treatment.

They signed an agreement on scientific-technical cooperation, which makes possible exchanges of experience, visits of scientists and researchers in the two countries, and naturally also the exchange of scientific and technical results.

The second agreement was about the removal of dual taxation, which in today's entrepreneurial world is extremely important, since many Israeli-Hungarian mixed enterprises have been formed up til now as well, but henceforth one can expect further similar ones to be formed, because dual taxation had been an obstacle to such important businesses coming into being.

The third agreement is likewise of an economic nature. It deals with the protection of investments and its essence is that in both countries the state should guarantee compensation for investments if any kind of unforeseeable event should occur after the realization of any given investment.

Apart from this there was a so-called exchange of foreign ministers' letters, which guarantees visa exemption for diplomats and those travelling on service passports. [passage omitted]

'Favourable Atmosphere' in Talks

LD1405172191 Budapest MTI in English 1405 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Jerusalem, May 14 (MTI)—The signing of Hungarian-Israeli inter-governmental agreements was the closing event of the two-hour talks between Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and his Israeli counterpart Yitshak Shamir in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

At the end of the talks conducted in the office of the prime minister, the two prime ministers signed agreements on investment protection, on technical-scientific co-operation and on the elimination of double taxation.

The agreements will help further develop ties and friendship between Israel and Hungary, Shamir said.

Antall also expressed his conviction that the three agreements will promote the development of relations. "I hope the present agreements will be followed by further ones strengthening our contacts and mutual confidence," he said.

"I would very much desire that we should always be able to inform each other of our views as is characteristic of friends," Antal added. To a question from a correspondent of Hungarian television's news programme, he replied, "The Hungarian Government and Hungary are often mentioned in a context not corresponding to facts. We have assured the Israeli side that we will guarantee the Hungarian Jewish community its rights and freedom."

Speaking about the talks with his Israeli counterpart, Antal stressed that the talks had been conducted in a favourable atmosphere as expected.

All the fields of Hungarian-Israeli relations had been surveyed, Shamir added.

Titular state secretary Gyula Kodolanyi, head of the Hungarian prime minister's advisory body told Hungarian journalists accompanying the prime minister that during the talks, the sides discussed possibilities of developing Hungarian-Israeli ties and outlined their views concerning issues of the middle east region.

Outlining the Hungarian government's foreign policy, Antal informed his host that Hungary wanted to maintain friendly ties with Israel and also with those Arab states in the region that were close to Hungary's political position.

Shamir spoke about his government's standpoint concerning solutions of the crisis and its efforts towards Israeli-Arab talks.

The Hungarian side has no direct interests in affairs of the region, therefore, at the current talks, the topic has only emerged with the intention to collect information.

Evaluating bilateral relations, the sides stressed the importance of scientific co-operation.

Jozsef Antal invited Shamir to visit Hungary.

Chaim Herzog, president of Israel will also visit Hungary in June 1991, Gyula Kodolanyi announced.

Antal Urges Exchanging Opinions

LD1405212691 Budapest Domestic Service
in Hungarian 1600 GMT 14 May 91

[Excerpts] We first report on Jozsef Antal's talks in Israel. Mihaly Erdei-Grunwald reports from Jerusalem:

[Erdei-Grunwald] [passage omitted] Jozsef Antal and his entourage were driven to the headquarters of the Council of Ministers, where the two delegations conducted one and a half hours of discussions in Yitzhaq Shamir's office. Then three agreements were signed. On this occasion both heads of government gave brief

speeches, after which they allowed five minutes for the journalists present to ask questions. On behalf of the Hungarian journalists' delegation, Elemer Csak was the one who asked questions. First you will hear the speeches, and then Elemer Csak's questions.

[Begin recording] [unidentified voice in Hungarian] In my opinion, the signing of the agreements will further strengthen the already existing contacts and friendship between Israel and Hungary. I wish you, Mr Premier, and the Hungarian people further useful work and success.

[Antal] I very much thank Mr Prime Minister for his words. I too am convinced that these three agreements will promote our relations. I hope that further agreements will be signed between Hungary and Israel, and that these agreements will further strengthen our relations and confidence in one another. And I should also like us always to learn from each other the opinions we have formed of each other. We should learn the opinions from each other, in light of the fact that there is talk too often of the Hungarian Government and of Hungary in a tone and a slant that does not accord with reality. We value Israel highly, and we shall guarantee for Jews in Hungary their legal status, we shall guarantee (?full) freedom for the life of their community.

[Csak] How do you judge your talks so far?

[Antal] I believe that they have gone according to expectations, in content, just as the welcome (?has indicated). [end recording]

[Erdei-Grunwald] The afternoon program continued at the venue of Israeli President Chaim Herzog, who will soon visit Hungary, who gave a luncheon of limited attendance to the government delegation; this again was attended by the cream of Israeli political life. From here, the delegation left for parliament where Dov Shilansky, speaker of parliament, ceremonially received Jozsef Antal, first in his office, and then accompanied him to the session hall, where we interrupted the session to greet the Hungarian premier.

The premier is now receiving Shimon Peres, the leader of the opposition Labor Party, and then, together with the Hungarian finance minister, he will receive Yitzhaq Moda'i, the Israeli minister of finance, in the King David Hotel. In the meantime, the number of security men around the hotel has doubled, since another guest has arrived in the person of U.S. Secretary of State Baker, who has come to Israel on the final leg of his Middle East tour. Another guest of the hotel, and perhaps of the evening banquet, is Robert Maxwell, the renowned British businessman who also has investments in Hungary.

Press Briefed on Antal-Shamir Talks

LD1405213191 Budapest MTI in English 1752 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Jerusalem, May 14 (MTI)—Briefing the press on the Hungarian-Israeli prime ministerial meeting, Balazs Laszlo, Hungarian government spokesman, said that

Jozsef Antall raised the idea of involving the European Communities, beside the USA and the USSR, in the peace process of the Middle East.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir shared the view that the two countries may consider one another as friends. He said that Jozsef Antall's statements on Monday made the intentions of his government as regards the Jewish community in Hungary entirely clear. (The Hungarian prime minister emphasized repeatedly that his government provided full freedom and all chances of community life for the Jewish people and took a resolute stand against anti-Semitism.)

Antall initiated that Israel should commission a state-owned bank to undertake guarantee for Israeli investments in, and finance Israeli exports to, Hungary. Laszlo said. The initiative was welcomed by the Israeli prime minister. The Hungarian prime minister also proposed that Israel should hand over its experience in the retraining of manpower.

Antall Responds to Knesset Greetings

LD1405213491 Budapest MTI in English 1757 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Jerusalem, May 14 (MTI)—"The peoples which suffered the most understand one another the best. The peoples of Israel and Hungary belong to these," Hungarian prime minister Jozsef Antall said in reply to the greetings by Dov Shilansky, speaker of the Knesset, on Tuesday afternoon. Antall expressed the hope that the two parliaments would develop close working contacts in the future.

Earlier, Israeli President Chaim Herzog gave a gala lunch in Antall's honour.

Late in the afternoon, Shim'on Peres, head of the opposition Labour Party, visited the Hungarian prime minister at his residence in the king David Hotel.

In a simultaneous development, James Baker, U.S. Secretary of state who is currently on a Middle East mission, arrived at the same hotel.

Financial Relations Discussed

LD1405213891 Budapest MTI in English 1839 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Jerusalem, May 14 (MTI)—In his meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall on Tuesday, Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition labour party, shared the view of the Israeli Government that there were great untapped reserves in the development of economic cooperation between Hungary and Israel. Balazs Laszlo, Hungarian government spokesman, said.

Jozsef Antall met Israeli Minister of Finance Yitzhaq Moda'i. In the company of Hungarian Finance Minister Mihaly Kupa, the sides held talks on the development of financial and banking relations. They paid particular

attention to the chances of joint projects and cooperation in third markets. The sides established that the agreements had already been concluded, now they would have to be filled with content. It aroused keen Hungarian interest that Israel had a free trade agreement with the United States and, at the same time, was an associate member of the European Economic Community.

On Tuesday evening, Jozsef Antall gave a reception in the honour of his hosts. The Hungarian prime minister is to end his programme in Israel on Wednesday.

Antall Denies Accord on Peace Talks

TA1505043991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0400 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Sources close to Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall have denied that he came to an agreement with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir regarding the form peace talks in the region should take. The sources said the issue never came up in Antall's talks with Shamir. They said Antall supports the convening of an international peace conference to deal with Middle East issues.

Antall Ends Visit With Meetings

LD1505134591 Budapest MTI in English 0650 GMT
15 May 91

[Text] Jerusalem, May 15 (MTI)—Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem, called at the visiting Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall at his residence in King David Hotel on Wednesday morning.

Following this, Antall bid farewell to his host, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Their far-reaching talks on the expansion of bilateral relations on Tuesday drew into the evening reception given by Jozsef Antall.

On Wednesday, Antall and his entourage are to visit the Jewish, Christian and Islamic shrines in the occupied old city of Jerusalem, and the Bethlehem Church of Birth.

In the afternoon, the delegation will pay a visit to Weizmann Institute in the town of Rehovot, and then Antall will meet leaders from Israel's 250,000-strong Hungarian-speaking Jewish community in Tel Aviv.

The Hungarian prime minister is expected to assess the varied programme of the three-day visit at a press conference before his departure on Wednesday evening.

Gives News Conference, Departs

LD1505211891 Budapest MTI in English 1950 GMT
15 May 91

[Text] Tel Aviv, May 15 (MTI)—The Hungarian government supports the Middle East peace efforts of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, said Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall in Tel Aviv on Wednesday evening. The prime minister made the remarks at the closing press conference of his visit to Israel.

In his introductory statement, Antall again stressed, as he had done on several occasions during the visit, that anti-Semitism is an extremely dangerous phenomena, which should not be used as a political means by any side.

In answer to a question, Antall rejected that Miklos Horthy be termed an arrow-cross man (Hungarian Nazi). Antall recalled that the Hungarian governor won merits in 1944 precisely in the matter of the Jews, and he was arrested by the Arrow Cross. Antall also said that he, personally, is not one of the followers of Miklos Horthy, the Horthy family requested that the remains be returned to Hungary, and the funeral will also be a family service, however, its date has not been set yet.

The prime minister said preparations are in progress for the enactment of a law which would regulate compensation matters pertaining to the period prior to 1949, and which would affect the Jews, the forcibly resettled Germans, and those who were resettled in Hungary.

In answer to a question by MTI's correspondent, on whether the prime minister was preparing to visit an Arab country, in the spirit of a balanced Middle East policy, Antall said a visit to Egypt is among his plans. However, the date of his visit to Cairo has not been coordinated yet.

Answering questions, the prime minister said: There were short-range nuclear weapons in Hungary, but these were withdrawn from the country by March, 1990, and, to his best knowledge, these weapons were never in Hungarian hands. Hungary's direct political dependency on the Soviet Union has been eliminated. However, the financial accounting related to the Soviet troops withdrawal implies a major problem. The Hungarian trade surplus of 2,000 million dollars towards the Soviet Union is a serious problem for Hungary, Antall added. He also mentioned the considerable decline in trade volume with the former socialist countries.

Hungary does not wish to form a joint military pact with the former Warsaw Treaty member states of the region, and considers the Helsinki Process, the Paris Charter to be the basis of its security policy. Without the intention of joining NATO, the Hungarian government considers the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to be an important element in guaranteeing European security, similarly to the American military presence on the continent, said the prime minister at his press conference in Tel Aviv.

Antall and the Hungarian government delegation left Israel for Budapest on Wednesday evening.

Exports to PRC, USSR, Iran Increase Sharply

TA1405141091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
14 May 91 p A1

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] There has been enormous growth in Israeli exports to the PRC during the first part of the year.

Between January and April 1991, exports to the PRC totaled \$3.5 million, an increase of more than 400 percent compared to \$760,000 during the same period last year, according to internal data in the economic ministries in Jerusalem.

The PRC is only one of several countries with which Israel does not have diplomatic relations—some of them hostile states—but to which Israeli exports increased considerably since the beginning of 1991.

Exports to the USSR doubled in the first four months of the year and totaled \$4.9 million, compared to \$2.2 million last year. There was an especially large increase in exports to Indonesia, which grew from \$109,000 in the first third of 1990 to \$4.6 million this year. Israeli exports also reach Malaysia, which is considered a hostile country. According to the data, exports to Malaysia in the January-April period reached \$87,000.

Israeli products have also reached Iran. According to the data, there has been a fourfold growth in exports to Iran during the first part of 1991; those now total \$585,000, compared to \$133,000 in January-April 1990. It should be pointed out that the Central Bureau of Statistics does not publish official data on Israeli exports to those countries.

The increase in exports to countries that does not have diplomatic relations with Israel is especially prominent in view of the drop in overall exports during the first part of the year. According to data published by the Bureau last week, Israel's overall exports dropped 4 percent in the first four months of the year to reach \$3.6 billion, while there was a 6-percent growth in imports.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 14 May reports that, according to an announcement of the Chamber of Commerce during the Hungarian prime minister's visit, trade between Hungary and Israel, "now some \$50 million, is expected to reach \$180 million within two years."]

Levi Seen Losing Influence With Party, Cabinet

TA1405143091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
14 May 91 p B1

[Commentary by Ilan Shehori: "In the Footsteps of 'Ezer Weizman"]

[Text] Were the Likud to hold internal elections today, it is very doubtful that Foreign Minister David Levi would receive one of the first seven slots. Levi's standing in the party is now at an unprecedented low. Many Likud Central Committee members believe that he is working against the Likud stands and that his activity is somewhat reminiscent of 'Ezer Weizman's early career, before he slanted leftward and was forced to make a shameful exit from the Likud.

The gravity of Levi's position can be seen also from a popularity poll conducted recently by a research institute, the Modi'in Ezrahi. The poll shows that in the

public's view, Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu, Levi's deputy, is more popular and more worthy of being a foreign minister than David Levi. Replying to an open question, 23.5 percent of the interviewees gave Netanyahu their vote, while only 15.2 percent gave theirs to Levi. Only during the Gulf war did Levi, according to an earlier poll, enjoy a rise in support, which was paralleled by the general support given to the entire government.

Levi's position is much worse according to a survey about possible candidates for prime minister. In that poll he ranked only seventh, receiving the votes of merely 1.7 percent of those polled. On that poll's list, Levi was preceded by Yitzhaq Shamir, Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Peres, Binyamin Netanyahu, and, naturally, Ari'el Sharon and Moshe Arens. By the way, Sharon gained 3 percent more than Arens in that poll, while Levi lagged behind Arens by the same 3 percent.

On 11 June a year will have elapsed since David Levi coerced the prime minister into handing him the Foreign Ministry. Shamir's bureau people are already preparing a political balance sheet on Levi, and the general view in Shamir's circle is that Levi is a thorn in the prime minister's side. It is believed that in less than a year he has caused Israel political damage, and that his avidity for self-advertisement and personal honors has deflected him from his primary goal. The case when he informed the media of his tactical understanding with the prime minister on the issue of the regional conference's ongoing nature is merely an example of his lack of understanding of political matters.

The expressions used by insiders at the prime minister's bureau with regard to Levi are perhaps the gravest in the history of relations between the prime minister's and foreign minister's bureaus. They term Levi an unskilled, stuffed-shirt beginner, with whom Shamir is forced to cooperate. He is perceived as a man whose actions are prompted by ostentation, a publicity and public relations man who can be neither swallowed nor disgorged because of the image of his influence with the party and because of the impact it might have on various elements inside the Likud. Some compare Levi to Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, whose eagerness to become prime minister sometimes drives him over the edge.

There is a growing impression that the pattern of a two-headed Israeli government, which dominated the unity government, is being repeated. Levi is not prepared to see himself as a mere foreign minister, and he often assumes the pomp of a full-fledged prime minister. More than once, Shamir has been forced to remind Levi of his place and to explain to him in public where decisions are made in the State of Israel.

By the way, several eyebrows were raised in the Likud recently when it was learned that Levi had bestowed key positions on the same aides who had in the past worked with Peres. One of them, Avi Gil, almost worked under Levi as a member of his personal staff.

In fact, David Levi does possess an ability to probe matters in depth, if he so desires, to understand their substance, to ask the right questions, and to make the appropriate reservations—all of which could be observed in the cabinet meetings of the past months. His appearance before the Likud Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee about 10 days ago, however, triggered a warning light as to his direction. His recent declarations reflect a distinct dovish line. It would be a mistake, however, to ignore his personal drives and to believe that he is motivated by national considerations only.

David Levi aspires to the position of prime minister, and he does not disguise his ambition. As time passes, however, that possibility is becoming more and more remote. Perhaps he will become the hope of some sections of the left-wing camp, but he will probably lose his ability to influence the Cabinet.

At present, Levi has the unmitigated support of Knesset Member Re'uven Rivlin only, while his vast camp in the Likud has evaporated. His true power will become evident in the next internal Likud elections. Levi's friends are already conscious of the impending defeat and the shattering of the strong-man Levi legend.

Jewish Emigration From Jerusalem Noted

TA1305135491 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 13 May 91 p 8

[Report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Since its reunification during the Six-Day War in 1967, Jerusalem has grown to unprecedented dimensions: A city of 275,000 in 1967, it had more than 360,000 residents in 1978, and now has more than 500,000. It is the city with the largest population in Israel. [passage omitted]

For several years, though, the city has experienced emigration. The number of Jewish residents who leave it exceeds the number of people who settle in it. Emigration statistics show that in the past decade Jerusalem has "lost" more than 7,000 individuals.

Professor Avraham Friedman, the chairman of the Jerusalem Institute for Israeli Studies, mentioned two reasons why people leave the city: housing and employment. This contradicts the popular notion that the city's sociocultural characteristic—that is, relations between its religious and nonobservant societies—is the factor that drives people out of it. A minority of those who leave Jerusalem move to the city's satellite residential centers; young people and singles leave for the center of the country. "The trend of moving away from the city also explains its low unemployment rate," says Prof. Friedman. "The young simply do not remain here and do not compete for jobs."

Building starts in Jerusalem, whose population constitutes 11.1 percent of the overall Israeli population, are lower than in other parts of the country, and that

includes also public building. The average per capita income is likewise lower than anywhere else in the country. [passage omitted]

It seems that the magic of Jerusalem has not affected the latest wave of immigrants. Prof. Friedman describes the city's dire predicament: "In the past decade, before the massive USSR immigration, Jerusalem was a preferred destination. New immigrants, a substantial percentage of whom were observant, wanted to settle only in Jerusalem. This trend has changed since the increase in Soviet immigration, and the figures speak for themselves: Whereas 10 years ago 18.8 percent of the new arrivals settled in Jerusalem, in 1986 the rate was approximately 25 percent, and in 1989 it was only 12.7 percent and dropping. In 1990 only 6.7 percent of all the immigrants reached Jerusalem."

Friedman also pointed out that those who come to Jerusalem are generally somewhat older. Only a small number of them are young, and 17 percent are divorced or widowed. The reasons for this are obvious: Their chance to integrate are virtually nil. The city's service sector, from public institutions to the university, is saturated.

Those who are so inclined may find consolation in the domestic increase, to which the religious sector contributes. They produce 28.2 babies for every 1,000 Jews in Jerusalem, compared to 19.7 among the Israeli populace

at large. The ratio among the Arab population in the capital is 32.9 per 1,000, although this trend has slowed a bit recently.

Court Rejects Final Appeal Against Deportations

TA1705080091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 May 91 p 1

[Staff report]

[Excerpt] The High Court of Justice yesterday turned down a final appeal against expulsion by four Gazans ordered deported almost two months ago.

The court rejected their appeal for a second hearing against a High Court decision earlier this week upholding the Defense Ministry's March 24 deportation order. [passage omitted]

SLA Kills 'Terrorist' in Security Zone 11 May

TA1205101391 Jerusalem Qot Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] A terrorist was killed last night in the security strip in southern Lebanon in a clash with SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers. The SLA suffered no casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the SLA soldiers spotted the terrorist in the western sector of the security zone, opened fire, and killed him. His personal weapon and several mines were found next to the body.

Crown Prince Addresses Arab-Soviet Seminar

JN1605120291 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1100 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that the Middle East region is now passing through a decisive phase which will affect its future from the political, economic, and social standpoints.

Speaking at a seminar on Arab-Soviet dialogue in Amman today, Prince Hasan said international legitimacy based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 remains the essential factor in resolving the problems of the region. More important than this, he said, are the intentions of the parties concerned and whether they want to reach a genuine solution considering all factors, particularly the human factor and the future of the peoples of the region who should live under an umbrella of security, stability, justice, and equality.

U.S. Navy Halts Ship Carrying Supplies To Iraq

JN1605074891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
16 May 91 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] Amman—The Algerian vessel "Orios," carrying food from the Algerian people to the Iraqi people, arrived in al-Aqabah yesterday. The ship had been detained in the Red Sea by U.S. Marines since 27 April. The ship is carrying 4,500 tonnes of foodstuffs, baby milk, medicines, and electrical generators. [passage omitted]

Increased Oil Supplies from Iraq Reported

JN1205075291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
12 May 91 p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan is now receiving oil supplies from Iraq at around 37,000 to 40,000 barrels a day, trucked daily to the Kingdom from its eastern neighbour, according to officials and industry sources.

"Iraqi oil supply to Jordan from Karkuk fields has increased and it is only a matter of weeks before the quantity could be raised to (the pre-crisis level of) 50,000 or 60,000 barrels a day if Jordan so desires," said a senior Iraqi source in Baghdad.

The source said oil loading facilities at the Karkuk facility, known as Tripoli 1 (T1) were fully operational after damages suffered during the Gulf war had been repaired.

Jordanian officials confirmed that the daily flow of Iraqi oil to the Kingdom had risen from 22,000 barrels two weeks ago, but did not give any specific figure for the current supply.

There is a dramatic rise in the number of oil tankers crossing the Iraqi-Jordanian border, but the tankers are of various shapes and sizes, making it difficult to make an accurate assessment of the quantity of the oil flow. But industry sources put the figure at 37,000 to 40,000 barrels per day.

Jordan's oil imports from Iraq represent Baghdad's repayment of debts to Amman incurred prior to Iraq's takeover of Kuwait which brought about the imposition of international trade sanctions against Iraq. The agreement to take oil in lieu of cash was also made prior to the invasion, and thus the sanctions are not applicable to the Kingdom's oil imports from Iraq, international legal experts say.

The resumption of near pre-crisis level supply of oil from Iraq to Jordan comes at a most opportune time for the Kingdom, which has to draw from its foreign exchange reserves to be up to date with its servicing of foreign debts for the year 1990 before rescheduling payments due in 1991 and 1992.

During the two and a half months of suspension in Iraqi oil exports to Jordan, the Kingdom had to draw from its reserves to pay for alternate oil purchases from Syria and Yemen.

"We were forced to draw from the reserves to pay for part of the oil purchases," said a senior official. But he declined to give figures and also refrained from commenting on whether Jordan had made barter arrangements with Syria or Yemen.

No officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources were immediately available for comment.

The daily consumption in Jordan prior to the eruption of the Gulf crisis in August was around 50,000 barrels per day. But the influx of hundreds of thousands of expatriates and refugees from Kuwait and Iraq raised the consumption level to 65,000 barrels per day in subsequent months. The figure also represented a seasonal increase in the use of heating fuel during the winter months.

Conservation measures adopted since then have reduced the consumption by about 30 per cent, officials have said.

Jordan's import of oil from Iraq was one of the issues touched by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during last week's meetings on the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme, highly informed sources said.

"They asked for a clear accounting of Iraq's debts to Jordan," said one of the sources. "They also wanted to price Iraqi oil exports to Jordan at a more realistic rate than the present concessionary rate," added the sources.

Under the pre-crisis agreement, Iraq supplies oil to Jordan at \$16.4 a barrel regardless of international market prices, which, at one point during the run-up to

the Gulf war in January, hit as much as \$40 a barrel. Present prices are in the region of \$20 per barrel.

But, the source said, the issue of Iraqi oil supply to Jordan or its price was not any hurdle in reaching agreement between the IMF and the government. "They (the IMF) know that in view of the present situation of Jordan, any imposition of further burdens, superficial or otherwise, will only hamper the restructuring programme," the source added.

Syrian Oil Said Imports Cut

JN1405113491 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
14 May 91 p 2

[Text] Amman—AL-RAY has learned that an agreement has been reached between the Jordanian and Syrian authorities to reduce the amount of Jordan's imports of Syrian oil from 1,000 to 400 tonnes per day.

Energy Ministry sources said the agreement is temporary and does not have any definite time frame.

Al-Hirawi's Departs for Meeting in Syria

NC1605170491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1639 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] We learned a short time ago that President Ilyas al-Hirawi left for Damascus this evening for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Hirawi Returns

NC1705063091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpt] The 12th summit meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad ended at about midnight last night after five hours of talks at the Syrian presidential palace. Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended a large portion of the meeting.

According to reports this morning, President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut late last night. [passage omitted]

'Lebanese Forces' Ship Weapons to Border Strip

NC1605154691 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
13 May 91 p 3

[Excerpt] The "Lebanese Forces" have begun shipping heavy weapons to the southern sector occupied by Israel. The aim so far is to "store" these weapons in al-Naqurah under joint "Lebanese Forces-Lahdist" supervision and under an Israeli umbrella.

Sources have noted that the "Lebanese Forces" have been assembling their heavy weapons since Friday and moving them outside the areas of Kasrawan and Jubayl under Lebanese Army escort. At 0130 every day, roads leading to Juniyah port are closed and traffic is banned by Lebanese Army personnel so that the transportation of the following weapons can begin: T-55, T-62, and T-54 tanks; 155-mm and 130-mm field artillery; 160-mm and 240-mm mortars; BM-21 rocket launchers; antiaircraft guns; mobile operations control armored vehicles; sophisticated communications equipment; automatic mobile kitchens; and large quantities of artillery ammunition.

Eyewitnesses have noticed that four cargo ships are docked off Juniyah port to load the weapons. These ships have taken three shipments, and seven more shipments are expected to be sent in the next few days.

Security sources in the "Lebanese Forces" have kept silent about the destination of these ships, but excluded the possibility that these weapons have been sold to rebels in Africa. Observers, however, believe that the destination of these ships is the border strip area where "Lebanese Forces" elements have already gone to unload, assemble, and guard the weapons in places near al-Naqurah. [passage omitted]

Lahd Militiamen, Israeli Forces Staging Maneuvers

NC1605095691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0800 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Since this morning Agent Lahd's militiamen, in cooperation with the Israeli occupation forces, have been carrying out wide-scale military training exercises and maneuvers in the occupied area of Hasbayya to the contact line bordering the liberated areas. Artillery, tanks, and various types of weapons are being used in these maneuvers which are being carried out under the direct supervision of high-ranking Israeli enemy officers and Agent Antoine Lahd. Consequently, the Zummara crossing that leads to this area has been closed in both directions until Monday morning.

Meanwhile, Israeli occupation authorities have continued to carve off Lebanese territory after completing a road linking Tall al-Nahas area with the road they built north of Shab'a farms.

The occupation forces notified the inhabitants of the villages on both sides of the contact line in the eastern sector of the decision to impose a curfew on Thursday and Friday.

Government on Alert

NC1605171091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] A maneuver involving live ammunition, artillery, and tanks within the border strip has put Lebanese diplomacy on the alert, fearing this action might lead to genuine war operations.

The live-ammunition maneuver between the Israeli forces and those of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in the border strip's eastern sector, which began this morning, continues. Around 40 tanks, 155-mm and 175-mm artillery, and mortars are being used in the maneuver.

The Israeli forces have warned nearby villages not to approach the military operation areas starting this morning until tomorrow evening.

Four Israeli combat aircraft overflew Sidon and encountered anti-aircraft fire.

In light of these Israeli moves and maneuvers, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, as acting foreign minister, summoned Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, Foreign Ministry acting secretary general, and asked him to inform Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations, of these developments. Karami also asked the Foreign Ministry acting secretary general to summon the ambassadors of the five major powers to inform them of the actions.

Clashes, Incidents With Lahd Forces in South Noted

NC1605114991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] One can feel the tension along the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-mir combat lines following clashes between positions held by the Nasirite Popular Organization and those held by agent Lahd's militiamen earlier this morning. Heavy-caliber machine guns and mortars were used in the clashes.

Yesterday, a clash between Israeli intelligence men and agent Lahd's militiamen occurred in al-Naqurah. The battle lasted approximately one hour. Israeli occupation forces intervened to halt the clash.

Security sources have stated that the tension is thick in the towns of Ibil al-Saqy and Kawbaka after an Israeli officer crashed into a car the Norwegian UN contingent had put across the road to prevent the Israelis from getting into the area.

Israel Said To Reinforce Troop Presence in South

NC1705085391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] According to various reports, the Israeli forces recently dispatched a large number of military reinforcements to the area extending from Tallat al-Hamamis, south of al-Khiyam, to the Saddanah heights near Kafr Shuba. The forces set up several posts in the area and are now working on roads to link them. They are paving some roads inside Lebanon, particularly in the al-Majidiyah area and on the Shab'a farmland, and extending these roads to reach the Zionist settlements near the Lebanese border.

According to people who arrived from the area, a Zionist army engineering team contacted a number of farmers and property owners in al-Mari and Kafr Shuba and asked to purchase parcels of land near the barbed wire fence along the Lebanese-Palestinian border with a view to annexing this land to the occupied territory for security purposes. The property owners rejected the request and asked the Lebanese Government to intervene and to contact international organizations so that pressure could be exerted on Israel to prevent it from carrying out its designs.

Israeli Overflights, Explosion in Tyre Reported

NC1505091191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0845 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the mountain at 1120 today.

Reports received this morning say that an explosive device has gone off in the city of Tyre. No details are available on the explosion.

Israeli Fighters Overfly Sidon, Camps

NC1605170691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew at low altitude over Sidon and nearby camps this afternoon, drawing intense anti-aircraft fire. The Israeli overflights coincided with two Israeli gunboats cruising the Sidon-al-Naqurah waters.

Buwayz, Qaddumi Comment on Disarming Militias

NC1605163691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has affirmed that while respecting Lebanon's sovereignty, no Palestinian could give up his arms.

Speaking after a meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Cairo, Qaddumi stressed that the Palestinian presence poses no threat. The real danger, he said, comes from Israel's occupation of the south. While pointing out that today's meeting signals the start of a Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue, Qaddumi expressed the PLO's eagerness to preserve Lebanon's territorial integrity. He added: We will cooperate in every way with the Lebanese authority to help it extend its authority throughout Lebanese territory.

Minister Buwayz said after the meeting that he had asked the PLO to cooperate in the disarming of the militias. He noted that that state is sincerely cooperating with the Palestinians. He added: We are still at the beginning of the road, and some security departments will follow up on what has been agreed upon.

A Palestinian source in Cairo has stated that an agreement was reached for the Lebanese state to extend its authority throughout Lebanese territory and for the Palestinian armed presence to be confined at the present stage within the Palestinian camps. The same source described today's talks as positive and constructive, hoping that they will lead to a real clearing of the relations between the two sides.

Bomb Thrown at Fatah Commander's Home

NC1505112191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] A bomb was thrown at the home of Lieutenant Colonel Hasan al-Hallaq, commander of Fatah militia, in the 'Ayn al-Hulway camp at dawn today. Al-Hallaq's guards opened fire at the perpetrators, wounding a Palestinian civilian.

This morning hundreds of Palestinian students set out on a protest march from 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp on the anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. The demonstrators carried Palestinian flags and pictures of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. Speeches were delivered stressing that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In Tyre, a stick of dynamite exploded under a car, only damaging property.

Al-Asad Meets With Lebanese President

JN1605203191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] At 1900 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

They were later joined by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Discuss Regulating Ties

JN1705053091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad last night received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. They were later joined by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Conversation during the meeting centered on the situation in fraternal Lebanon the implementation of the clauses of the national reconciliation charter, and bilateral ties.

President al-Hirawi explained the steps made by the Lebanese state to implement the national reconciliation charter, including the formulation of the appropriate framework to regulate relations between Lebanon and Syria.

The president expressed satisfaction with the march of national reconciliation, activating the constitutional institutions, and the spreading of peace, security, and the legitimate authorities' control over Lebanese areas. He stressed the continued Syrian support of anything that would help the Lebanese brothers turn over the page of the past. The president also welcomed laying down the appropriate framework for relations between the two countries to serve their interests and brotherly cooperation in harmony with their history, geography, and common interests.

President al-Hirawi joined the president for dinner. Khaddam, al-Zu'bi, and al-Shar' also attended.

Al-Shar' Returns From Cairo Arab League Meetings

JN1605140691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus today after leading Syria's delegation to the Arab League's ministerial meeting. He also participated in the talks that were held among the Syrian, Egyptian, and Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers on coordination and cooperation between the eight states.

Vice President Returns From Beirut, Comments

JN1105203791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus this evening following a visit to the Lebanese capital, Beirut, during which he met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The meeting was attended for Syria by General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff, and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami attended for Lebanon.

Khaddam answered questions from journalists after the meeting. He said that he briefed the Lebanese president on the current contacts and moves in the region and that the viewpoints were in agreement, in both analysis and perspective. He said he was also briefed by President al-Hirawi on the steps the Lebanese state has taken on the path of implementing the national reconciliation accord, including the security agenda.

The vice president said that he stressed to the Lebanese brothers that Syria will continue to render every possible assistance needed to Lebanon to close the chapter of the Lebanese crisis and achieve the Israeli withdrawal in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 425.

General Al-Shihabi Meets Soviet Military Group

JN1505185891 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, received in his office this morning Colonel General Nicolay Ivanovich Shlyaga, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, and the accompanying military delegation. The meeting was attended by the major general chief of the political administration in the Syrian Arab Army. Talks dealt with friendly and cooperation relations between the two Syrian and Soviet friendly Armies, and means to develop them.

Talks Held With Iran on Labor Problems

NC1105072591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] The first round of talks between Hoseyn Kamali and Haydar Buzu, Iranian and Syrian ministers of labor and social affairs, was held in Damascus last night. They discussed and reviewed issues pertaining to technical training and the exchange of technical experiences in various industries.

Labor Agreement Signed

*LD1305073391 Tehran IRNA in English
0608 GMT 13 May 91*

[Text] Damascus, May 13, IRNA—Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Hoseyn Kamali and his Syrian counterpart Haydar Buzu signed a letter of understanding here Sunday calling for Tehran-Damascus cooperation in various fields.

Based on mutual understanding and cooperation, the two sides agreed to adopt identical stances at international and regional gatherings and at the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The agreement predicts exchange of expert delegations, teaching carpet weaving to Syrian workers in Iran, and dispatch of Iranian workers and farmers to Syria to learn agriculture and rural services. Establishment of workshops by Iran for crippled Syrians and transfer of Iran's experiences to Syria for training the crippled in various crafts are among other agreements.

In a related development, Kamali who arrived here Wednesday heading a delegation, discussed Tehran-Damascus ties in a meeting with the Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam Sunday.

Legislators Meet With Iranian Majles Delegation

*JN1505172891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 May 91*

[Text] 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly, received an Islamic Iranian Majles delegation this afternoon led by Majles member Ahmad Azizi. Shakir Is'id, chief of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus, attended.

Mr. Qaddurah reviewed current issues, especially after the Gulf war and positions taken on the war, as well as efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. He also noted efforts by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and his wise, brave policy on the relentless efforts in this direction to put matters right.

The speaker of the People's Assembly voiced appreciation of Iran's positive support of Arab causes, primarily the Palestinian cause. He noted the depth of bilateral relations in all fields, stressing the need to enhance and deepen these relations to serve common interests.

For his part, Mr. Azizi expressed his and the delegation's happiness to be visiting Syria, which has demonstrated positive, principled, and just stands on the issues of the region, and intimate, fraternal relations with Iran. He stressed that views are identical on issues of mutual concern.

Mr. Azizi highlighted the Palestine question and the valiant intifadah of its struggling sons and the need to support the intifadah in light of its importance in Iranian policy and its comprehensive link with the Islamic

world. He stressed Syria's particularly important role among the confrontation states with the Zionist enemy, and the sacrifices it has made for Palestine and its struggling people to enable them to regain their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

Meet Vice President Khaddam

*JN1605134291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 May*

[Text] At 1200 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received the Islamic Iranian Majles delegation led by Ahmad 'Azizi.

Shakir Is'id, chief of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with cooperation between the two countries and the situation in the region in general.

German Parliamentary Delegation Concludes Visit

*JN1205085891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 May 91*

[Text] The German parliamentary delegation comprising (Walter Kolpov) and (Peter Hieterman), members of the German Social Democratic Party, left Damascus this morning following a five-day visit to Syria.

During the visit, it held talks with 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly, on means to enhance parliamentary relations. It also met with high-ranking Ba'th party and government officials.

Prior to its departure, the guest delegation expressed its pleasure with its visit to Syria and the useful information it gained on the most prominent issues in the Arab region especially following the Gulf war.

Al-Shar' Says Israel Obstructing Peace Efforts

*JN1505205091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 May 91*

[Text] Cairo—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that the Syrian position backs the peace process and is in support of participating in a peace conference on the Middle East within the framework of international legitimacy to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. News agencies cited al-Shar' as saying in statements to journalists in Cairo after the Arab League Council session today that everything being said about the Syrian position being an obstructive one is not based on any real grounds; it is propaganda stemming from Israel, because it rejects the convening of this conference, the participation of the United Nations in this conference, and the continuation of this conference to reach a genuine peace in the region. Thus, it blames others and holds the Arab side responsible.

The minister said that the Arab side, particularly Syria, is earnest about achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He said: Nobody can consider the presence of the United Nations at a peace conference to tackle an issue that is as old as this organization an intransigent position. He added: If the ideas presented by Baker in cooperation with his colleague Bessmertnykh have failed, then the Israeli side, not the Arab side, will be responsible for this failure.

Commentaries View Israeli Stance Toward Peace Moves

Aid Cuts Urged

JN1105135691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, who is in Cairo, has declared that there is a real opportunity for peace in the region which should not be missed, and that there is no alternative to doubling efforts so that they can become reality. The truth is that Bessmertnykh sensed a serious response to the peace efforts in the Arab capitals. His talks in Damascus with President Hafiz al-Asad were constructive and productive. They showed an identity of views regarding the proposed issues. Bessmertnykh's talk about doubling efforts is clearly an implication to Israel that it is the one placing obstacles in the way of the peace march. Israel is asking the Soviet Union to restore relations and speed up Jewish emigration without making concessions in return such as participating in the aspired-to peace conference, not settling the Jews in the occupied Arab territories, or giving the Palestinians the right to their land and country.

Before Bessmertnykh, Secretary Baker also came up against Israeli belligerence. His past three tours did not make any progress worth mentioning. In fact, the minimal gains Baker extracted from his Israeli counterpart, Levi, were publicly renounced by Shamir, thus bringing the situation back to zero. As for those Europeans who visited the region, they spoke frankly about the continuing Israeli belligerence. So far, Israel has rejected efforts to get the Europeans to take part in the peace conference; it has also rejected UN participation, since the Europeans have committed themselves to supporting the Palestine question. As for the United Nations, it is concerned about implementing its resolutions, foremost of which are Resolutions 242 and 338 which stipulate Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Then there is Resolution 465 which considers settlement illegal, null, and void.

Peace efforts will reach a climax and all positions will become clear with Bessmertnykh's tour, which today will be followed by U.S. Secretary Baker's own—the fourth and perhaps the last. The truth is that the way to

peace is well known; all these complications and worries are unnecessary. This was expressed by U.S. President George Bush himself when he called for a comprehensive settlement based on Resolutions 242 and 338, including Israeli withdrawal, in return for peace. However, Israel refuses to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and considers Jerusalem and the Golan Heights nonnegotiable. It also insists on continuing settlement activities. In fact, it counters the visits of peace messengers by setting up more settlements. To add insult to injury, it wants the peace conference proposed by the United States to be a carnival that would break up after the first session, in which neither the United Nations, nor Europe, nor even the permanent members of the Security Council would play a role. In short, Israel refuses to submit to international resolutions and calls on the Arabs to hold barren bilateral negotiations based on preconditions regarding the continuing occupation and settlement.

As regards Palestinian representation in bilateral negotiations, Israel so far insists on choosing those it believes are appropriate to represent a people whom it kills and makes homeless on a daily basis.

This flagrant Israeli belligerence not only thwarts the efforts of the United States, a country friendly to Israel, but clearly derides the whole international community and defies its will and resolutions. The international community cannot wash its hands of its responsibility regarding the Palestinian people and the occupied Arab territories; if it does so, it would be dealing a fatal blow to its own role and credibility for scores of years to come.

The Arabs—in fact, the people of the world—are looking to the international community to take measures against Israeli belligerence and apply the same standards that were applied during the Gulf crisis and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Those international resolutions on Palestine have been awaiting implementation for scores of years, while the international resolutions on Kuwait took only few months to enforce. Israel is not in such a position of power that allows it to defy the world. Merely cutting financial and military aid to it will force Israel to think seriously before rebelling against international legitimacy.

Syria, which has repeatedly stated through leader al-Asad that it is firmly concerned with establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on international resolutions, specifically the Security Council's 242 and 338, will show the utmost readiness to cooperate with efforts to entrench international legitimacy and to employ single standards to deal with all the issues in the region and the world. However, in doing this, it will not abandon the rights of the Arabs to their land, homes, and future, and will continue asking the international community to assume its responsibilities and translate its resolutions into tangible reality on the ground.

International Stance Called For

JN1205074491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's fourth tour of the region and highlights the exceptional importance of the efforts under way to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN says: Baker is coming at a time when Soviet-American efforts have begun to reflect agreement and convergence of views, since Baker's tour coincides with the tour of Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. This shows that Washington and Moscow have agreed, through consultations, on a host of ideas and bases that would constitute a framework for laying the groundwork for the convocation of a peace conference based on UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

TISHRIN adds: Prior to his departure for the region, Baker announced that his fourth tour will be the last and decisive one.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: It is only natural that Israel should be forced not to miss this opportunity and that pressure should be brought to bear on it in order to create the components for a just and comprehensive peace. Proceeding from this, and out of eagerness to promote the peace march and the ongoing efforts, an international position, reflecting international legitimacy, should be taken against the party which opposes peace, against the party which attempts to circumvent it through the advancement of excuses and justifications which have become exposed to the U.S. Administration and the Soviet leadership alike.

'Punishment' of Israel Urged

JN1205153491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 12 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Throughout the Arab-Zionist conflict, the Middle East has never seen such a flurry of diplomatic activity. Superpower diplomats have been making successive visits to the capitals of the region in search of the right formula for resolving an intractable problem that has cast a shadow over regional and global security and peace for the past half century.

Perhaps the Middle East problem, which arose with Israel's occupation of Palestine and the creation of the Zionist entity, has never faced a moment of truth as it does today. The world has now laid bare the spurious pretensions long-adopted by Israel as it has cast itself in the role of victim concealing the real killer under a mask that has deceived the world for a long time.

After numerous tours of the region by Secretary Baker and European envoys, and Bessmertnykh's current trip, the major powers have come to identify the root and only cause that forestalls Middle East peace and security. Having realized that the current peace-making efforts are being made in earnest and that the Arabs have extended every possible cooperation to end the conflict and spare the region the horrors of a potential war, Israel has had no choice but to reveal its true face and utter such statements that would have been unthinkable in the past, contrary to many long-held conceptions in the West based on Zionist trickery.

Only hours after Minister Bessmertnykh departed Israel and shortly before Secretary Baker was due to arrive there, Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister of the Zionist entity, declared that Israel's territorial ambitions extend beyond Jerusalem to every single inch of what he called the Hebrew state, which according to Zionist ideology, spans the land between the Euphrates and the Nile. This is in addition to all Arab territory Israel has conquered over the years. Where does this leave the territory-for-peace formula? Where does this leave UN resolutions underpinning international efforts? Where does this leave Resolutions 242 and 338, which, in an address to the American Congress, President Bush declared to be the basis for a peaceful settlement? Is Shamir, in effect, telling us and the world that all this talk about peace is nothing but idle chatter and that Israel still clings to its only option—that of invasion and aggression? How these questions should be answered is quite clear. Represented by its major powers, the world is well-advised to say loud and clear that the international outlaw flying in the face of the will of the international community will not escape punishment, even if it takes the force of arms to drive home that point.

Refusal To Indulge Israeli 'Dreams'

JN1605144091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: One cannot make sense out of Israel's determination to scuttle chances for a Middle East peace every time a peacemaking effort gets under way. Not only that, it then proceeds to shed crocodile tears over peace. A temperamentally warlike entity, Israel has never shown any real, credible interest in peace. In the final analysis Israel's idea of peace is a capitulation of the Arab nation so as to promote the project of the promised Zionist state built on the biblical dream of dominating the entire region. Judging by official Zionist pronouncements and actions on the ground, one can only conclude that Israel will never change, and that whatever offers it makes to Arabs are little more than a trap to secure Arab capitulation and a transparent invitation for Arabs to forgo their rights and territory.

Israel has made no secret of its abhorrence of a peace conference, or any proper international or UN attendance at such a parley, or, for that matter, any Palestinian representation there. Moreover, Israel has let it be known that, in defiance of pertinent UN resolutions and of the international community, it is resolved to expand its settlements. In effect, then, Israel has nothing to contribute to the peace process. Thus, Secretary Baker and Minister Bessmertnykh can only come to the conclusion that, given Israel's approach to the current peace-making drive, peace remains as elusive as ever. But under no circumstances will Syria or the Arabs walk into the trap Israel is setting for them. Syria's responsiveness to the peace efforts should not be mistaken by anyone as license for Israel to indulge its whims and expansionist, aggressive dreams. Syria's sympathetic approach to the current peacemaking efforts is to accommodate UN resolutions and international legitimacy. In contrast, one can hardly discern any regard for UN resolutions and international legitimacy in official Israeli utterances and actions. No one on earth can force us to relinquish our rights or land just to humor Israel and satisfy its appetite for expansion and aggression. Such concessions on our part would hardly be conducive to any kind of peace—either now or in the future. If anything, they can only lead to the creation of a lopsided state of affairs favorable to wars and disasters.

Halting Settlements Necessary

JN1505185591 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
12 May 91 p 9

[Article by Qasim Yaghi: "Halting Settlement Is the First Step"]

[Text] All signs indicate that things are becoming clearer in the Middle East. This is in view of the increased political moves in the region, the continued exploratory tours of its capitals, and the flurry of activity by senior Eastern and Western officials, especially the Soviet and U.S. foreign ministers. These moves are aimed at studying the proposed ideas for the launching of a peace process in the region that leads to the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region.

One of the most important and confirmed facts is that the failure so far to achieve any tangible progress in the search for a settlement of the region's crisis is due to the Zionist intransigence represented in the Israeli Government's rejection of all requirements for the launching of a peace process in the region, headed by the principle of "trading territory for peace" through the implementation of UN resolutions. These resolutions are based on the principles of international law, which hold that it is impermissible to seize others' land by armed force and provide for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Golan heights, and for the establishment of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and to an independent state.

The clearest evidence of this is Israel's persistent intransigence and rejection of any effort leading to a serious move toward a just and comprehensive peace. This is manifested in the Zionist entity's continued settlement of Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants either in new settlements, three of which have been established in the West Bank since the beginning of the U.S. secretary of state's tours of the region, or in new buildings added to the existing settlements in the occupied territories. This was confirmed by Zionist settlement minister Sharon who, on the eve of the Soviet foreign minister's arrival in the region, announced a plan to build 36,000 apartments only in occupied Jerusalem and the settlements surrounding it.

We are highlighting the issue of Zionist settlement in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights because settlement, as acknowledged by everyone, especially the United States, the Soviet Union, and the 12 EC member states, constitutes the stumbling block to any serious endeavor to launch the peace process in the region. All these states have issued official statements affirming that Israel's continued settlement activity obstructs any formula for discussing a just, comprehensive, and durable resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

Definitely, the international community does not lack the required material and moral means to implement its resolutions, especially regarding putting a final end to Zionist settlement in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan heights. Such a step constitutes the necessary prelude to launching the process of searching for a just, comprehensive, and durable peace for the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestine question. Success in the test of halting the Zionist settlement activities in the occupied territories is the correct first step for the implementation of other UN resolutions on the region's crisis, particularly UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

INA Reports Arrests Among Syrian Army Officers

JN1605093391 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0902 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Nicosia, 16 May (INA)—Arrivals from Damascus have said that the Syrian military intelligence arrested more than 20 officers toward the end of April, accusing them of disloyalty to the regime.

Among the detainees, the following were identified: Colonel 'Abd-al-Muhsin Ayyub, Major Jamal Mistu, Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Haththu, Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Salim, Lieutenant Colonel Humud al-Khalaf, Major Muhammad Suwaydan, Major Mahmud Jabri, and Captain Sa'd Jum'ah.

Al-Asad Issues Law No. 10 on Investment

JN1205173691 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
6 May 91 p 1

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has issued Law No. 10 governing the investment of the funds of Syrian citizens,

residents or expatriates, and Arab and foreign nationals, in investment projects within the framework of the state's general economic, social, and political development plans.

The law explains the fields of investment in social and economic development projects that are approved by the Higher Council for Investment, which are in harmony with the state's development plan, which use local resources available in the national economy, and which would increase exports and rationalize imports. The assets to be invested in any project should not be less than 10 million Syrian pounds. This sum is amendable by a Council of Ministers' decision.

The law grants several facilities, exemptions, and guarantees, such as the importing of all the machinery required for the projects, including tourist service vehicles and the material used to operate these projects, in addition to exempting imports from taxes and customs duties, and also exempting the companies' invested funds and their profits from all taxes imposed on income and real estate.

In addition to this, the law grants investors the possibility of opening accounts in foreign currency used in these projects in the Syrian Commercial Bank, in addition to other credit facilities.

Effective UN, European Role in Peace Called For

JN1405194991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: American-Soviet moves in the region continue with a view to setting the peace process in motion and holding a conference in which the concerned parties take part. Soviet foreign minister returned to Damascus to hold more talks and evaluate the outcome of contacts so far. And in a clear sign that the U.S. efforts are continuing, Secretary Baker said points of agreement among the parties are greater than points of differences. Baker revealed that the positions of Syria and Israel on the peace conference, its powers, and the role of the United Nations are different. However, he clearly pointed out that Syria's participation in the peace conference is fundamental; indeed, that any conference without Syria will not have a chance. This is because Syria has proved eager for peace and showed all possible readiness to deal with international efforts. Syria's demand for a just and comprehensive settlement and for an effective conference in which the United Nations and Europe play an important role does not harm the peace process. On the contrary, the wider the international participation and guarantees, the more effective the conference will be.

How can we possibly keep the United Nations away from a conference supposed to lead to the implementation of the UN resolutions on Palestine and the occupied Arab territories? How can Europe be distanced from the

peace conference when Europe is linked to the Middle East by a series of vital, strong, historical bonds?

When Israel sets such impossible conditions, it, in practice, seeks to freeze the peace process, maintain the explosive situation in the region, and foil every international effort. What is the meaning of insistence on a ceremonial conference convened for one session only and with the absence of the United Nations and Europe? What does insistence on dividing the Arab-Zionist conflict and isolating the Palestine question from other problems mean? The Palestine question is the Arab's main issue and the essence of the conflict in the region. What does insistence on marginalizing Palestinian representation at the conference mean? What is the meaning of the successive statements rejecting withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and considering these territories, which were usurped by force and aggression in 1967, an integral part of the lands of the so-called Greater Israel? And what is the meaning of such intensive settlement activity at a time when the foreign ministers of the United States and the Soviet Union are touring the region in search of the hoped-for peace?

Israel's intransigence arouses the denunciation of not only the Arabs, but also the entire world. The UN secretary general announced that the world organization is concerned about the peace conference and needs to play an effective role in it. Europe, through its officials and leaders, announced its determination to participate in the peace conference. European countries went even further by insisting on an international conference, not a regional one, and demanded that the United Nations assume its full responsibility in implementing its resolutions and bringing justice to the Palestinian people suffering under the yoke of occupation and the unjust Zionist grip.

Viewing things from this perspective, it can be said that when Syria supports the conditions of a just and comprehensive peace, a genuine and effective peace, it honestly reflects the aspirations of the Arabs and the entire world. Syria's position enjoys great international support because it is the guarantee for a real solution that can stand fast against developments and remain intact against sudden strikes. If Israel really wanted peace and wanted peace efforts to succeed, it would demand an international conference and participation of the United Nations, Europe, and the world, because the peace process will then enjoy a host of international guarantees. But Israel is placing all these obstacles in order to foil peace efforts, because peace would mean an end to the occupation of the Arab territories, attainment of Palestinian rights, and collapse of the Greater Israel plan. The statements by the enemy prime minister and his aides prove that Israel is determined to continue expansion and settlement. And here lies the responsibility of the world community, which, since the Gulf crisis, has taken upon its shoulders the task of implementing its will and resolutions and confronting all those who try to tamper with the interests and destinies of nations. The Arabs are waiting for the

world community to take a decisive position on Israel's intransigence. Indeed, the entire world is awaiting such a decisive position.

Position on Conference Termed Not 'Extremist'

JN1505145191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In all crises and situations that have a general bearing on the Arab nation and are related to the pan-Arab cause, Syria has always diagnosed the essence of the crisis and has measured the situation with an insight that has never been shaken or subject to doubts.

Regarding the crisis of the Arab-Zionist conflict in particular, Syria has always understood that the lynch pin of the crisis and the pivot of the conflict is the Palestine question, and that Arab rights can neither be bargained nor ceded. Syria is with the Arabs; without them, Syria can neither abandon its position nor bargain over its perspective. This is because, in its pioneering pan-Arab position, Syria represents the conscience of the Arabs and their ambition to win freedom and sovereignty; and because Syria is irrevocably determined to exact what is right and to honor all its commitments to the entire nation and its future generations.

Given the situation today, our enemy might, as it habitually does, look for a loophole or a defect here or there in the Arab position through which it can penetrate and create some sort of contradiction or disagreement. The enemy might do this using many pretexts or facts that do not admit of dispute or various opinions, so as to make the peace process that is being talked about, incomplete or ruptured, and thus, the enemy would win as much as

it can, and the Arabs would lose what they have tried not to lose throughout all these long years.

When Syria says it is in favor of a peace conference with the participation of the United Nations, the United States, the USSR, and the European Community, on the basis of UN resolutions, Syria is not placing obstacles but is pointing to the appropriate formula to make the conference succeed and is paving the right way for reaching a just, comprehensive solution that ensures real peace and security for this region and protects it from the dangers of wars threatening it.

We do not find in this view, which we have openly announced throughout the stages of the peace dialogue to be a unilateral stance isolated from the overall Arab position, but in fact a stance in harmony with Arab interests on the one hand, and with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the efforts under way for a real peace on the other.

Whatever Israel does or says to give the impression that Syria is taking an intransigent or extremist position, it will not be able to conceal before the world that everything it says today reflects its antipathy toward peace and that all the measures it is enforcing on the ground—settlement and deportation—are meant as a challenge to international legitimacy, UN resolutions, and the international community as a whole.

Can anyone understand the allegation that Syria, which is advancing ideas to promote peace and is eager to make the peace conference succeed, is intransigent, while Israel, which rejects the conference and the participants in this conference and is still pursuing settlement and deportation policies in the occupied territory, is flexible? If there is really anyone who understands such a claim, then is he truly seeking just and comprehensive peace in the region or is he looking for something else that we cannot give away?

Iran

Baker's Middle East Negotiations Trip Examined

LD1605215591 Tehran in English to Europe
1630 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Comprehensive political talks in the Middle East issues are observed with extreme sensitivity in Europe's capitals these days. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has opened his fourth conciliatory tour of the region under the circumstances when his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh had earlier paid official visits to Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and the occupied Palestine. According to reports, Baker has already held two rounds of talks with the Zionist regime's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the Defense Minister Moshe Arens; while David Levi, foreign minister of the Qods occupying regime too has returned to Tel Aviv, from a visit to Brussels, to join current talks.

The U.S. secretary of state's four visits to the Middle East in a space of just two months has primarily been undertaken to probe the chances of convening a peace conference. During this period, Baker, apparently after a series of political haggings with the Tel Aviv officials, has managed to (?solely solicit) their consent to the conduct of a regional conference. But the Arabs are desirous of the convening of an international peace conference under the UN supervision and with the participation of the feuding sides as well as America, the Soviet Union, and the European states.

David Levi, the Zionist regime's foreign minister, in connection with Baker's visit noted: fourth trip of James Baker to the Middle East is an encouraging sign, proving that he has observed Israel's readiness to advance the peace process and also positive reactions in some of the Arab states. But the Zionist foreign minister has kept silent over the nature of such positive reactions. However, since some sources have been quoted as saying that America and Israel have not only reached an agreement on the convening a regional peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of America and the Soviet Union, but also America, in backing the Zionists, is endeavoring to depict the Palestine problem as insignificant and debatable in the region [word indistinct] of Arabs and Israel without even the participation of the Palestinians themselves, so that a deal over it may take place easily. On this very ground it seems that James Baker's mission is to adjust the Arab countries policy and to make them accept Israel's views rather than to seek a genuine and middle of the way solution to the Middle East crisis. It appears that the Zionist regime's self-rule plan for the Palestinians in limited areas of the occupied regions under direct supervision of Israel is apparently the maximum concession that Tel Aviv may agree to grant. But this proposal has been repeatedly dismissed by the Palestinian organizations. Therefore, in view of the aforementioned issues, one can hardly imagine that fourth phase of the U.S. secretary of state's

mission will attain tangible and acceptable results, especially when the uprising of the Palestinian Muslim nation in the occupied regions continues to grow. But it is remote that the Palestinian combatants ever surrender to such an overt plot.

Reported Halt of Support To Afghan Rebels Denied

LD1605175891 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT
16 May 91

[Text] Mashhad, May 16, IRNA—The leader's representative in charge of Afghan affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ibrahim, on Thursday refuted rumours that the Iran no longer supports the Afghan mujahideen.

He also denied claims that the assistance granted by Iran to the mujahideen was donated by international organizations.

"Officials of the Islamic Republic will do all within their powers to support the struggles of the heroic Afghan people especially the Shi'ites," he told a group of foreign students at the theological school here.

He said a delegation comprising theological teachers and students from the holy cities of Mashhad and Qom will soon depart for Afghanistan for Islamic missionary work.

Va'ez Interviewed on 'Hostage Problem'

NC1605114191 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
12 May 91 pp 1,11

[Report by M. Soltanifar]

[Text] Tehran—A senior official of the Foreign Ministry yesterday said that the hostage problem is an 'international' one and it should be solved through sincere efforts of all the countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America Mahmud Va'ez said that one country cannot solve this problem which concerns all of us.

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES Va'ez said, "We have repeatedly announced that Iran has been the first victim of hostage taking and that there is no connection with Tehran of hostage taking of that or this national.

"Of course, Iran on humanitarian grounds has used its spiritual influence on some groups in Lebanon which in the past paved the way for the release of some hostages," Va'ez said.

"We still believe that all hostages irrespective of their nationality and religion must be freed immediately," the deputy minister who is leaving Tehran for Italy and Canada Tuesday said.

He said, "It's not good for any Western country to air the issues of Western hostages while Iranian and other Muslim Lebanese and Palestinians are under the captivity of the Zionist regime."

He was referring to the thousands of Muslims who are in the captivity of Zionist regime which attacked Lebanon and took the Muslims hostage during the last several years.

Va'ez said that the hostage problem can be solved only through collective efforts and on the bases on humanitarian grounds and not on the basis of nationality.

When asked to comment on a recent statement of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in which he put certain terms and conditions for the upgrading Tehran-London diplomatic ties, Va'ez said we have certain principles in the relations with other countries.

"As far as the United Kingdom is concerned," he said, "we have resumed our relations with all countries on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs of each other and respecting religious values of each other."

Va'ez said that these are the bases on which we welcome relations with other European countries and Britain is no exception.

"As you know," he said, "there is no connection between the hostage issue and Iran. So this linking of the issue to mutual relations in fact is a mistake."

"Moreover," he said, "we are not proposing to upgrade relations with Britain. So to air such a question has no meaning."

He was referring to Hurd's Saturday statement in which he said that relations between Britain and Iran would remain stunted as long as Britons were held hostage in Lebanon.

"In fact we were surprised by the British stand on this issue," Va'ez said.

He, however, said that Iran will continue its humanitarian efforts for the freedom of all hostages irrespective of their nationality. He also said that Iran will not accept any political pressure or threat for its efforts.

Va'ez again warned that the efforts of Iran will not bear any fruit unless a collective move is made.

Earlier Va'ez met with the British Charge d'Affaires David Reddway and asked for an explanation of the statement of British Foreign Secretary Hurd.

Reddway thanked humanitarian steps of Iran and said that he will convey the feeling of Tehran to his country.

UAE Leader on Iranian Role in Gulf Security

LD1605182191 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1445 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] The leader of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] has put emphasis on the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the security system of the Persian Gulf, naming Iran as a neighboring Muslim country that cannot be ignored. Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan

described the Persian Gulf crisis as a horrible, unprecedented tragedy which was brought about by a dictator. He also called for the overthrow of Saddam Husayn. The UAE leader added that the promotion and continuation of cooperation and friendship between Iran and the UAE will serve their common interests.

Deputy Majles Speaker Receives UK Delegation

LD1505171991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] The British parliamentary delegation met the deputy Majles speaker [Ayatollah Bayat] this morning in Tehran. At this meeting the deputy Majles speaker referred to the points of views of the two parties regarding restoration of bilateral ties and said: If you look at the realities from close quarters, the points of views of the Islamic Republic of Iran will undoubtedly be clearer to you.

Stressing the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the security of the region, Mr. Bayat said: The security of the region must be shouldered by the regional countries; no security is possible without the presence of the countries of the region, especially Iran who is today politically and militarily the strongest country in the region.

He added: We place emphasis on the territorial integrity of Iraq; we believe that disintegration of Iraq is against the interests of the Iraqi nation. We are also convinced that the fate of every nation, including the Iraqi nation, must be determined by the people and through free elections. No other country has any right to interfere.

Then Mr. Chaplin, leader of the British parliamentary delegation referred to Iran's hosting of Iraqi refugees and said: We praise the self-sacrifices of the government and nation of Iran in providing hospitality to the refugees. The British Government makes efforts within its means to help these refugees.

Joint Maneuvers Begin in Persian Gulf Waters

LD1505180491 Tehran IRNA in English 1327 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Bushehr, May 15, IRNA—The first stage of the joint maneuvers of the Iranian Armed Forces started today in the second naval zone, watched by Navy Commander Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani.

The six-stage war games code-named "Piroozi 2" (Victory-2), designed to boost the combat prowess of the Armed Forces are being staged in an 18,000 square kms area in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Explosions in South Iraq Heard in South

LD1505175291 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 May 91*

[Text] Clashes between the Iraqi popular forces and the agents of the regime in the South are still going on. According to an IRNA report, the sound of several explosions in southern Iraqi cities was heard in parts of the Azerbaijan plain. Also, at 1000 today, the sound of two explosions shook the windowpanes of houses in Hoveyze.

UN Informed of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

NC1605070991 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 16 May 91*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has sent two separate letters to the UN secretary general informing him of Iraq's new aggressions on its borders with Iran. The UN secretary general is being informed of major cases of cease-fire violations by Iraq between 20 Esfand 1369 and the end of Farvardin 1370 [11 March to 20 April 1991]. In the letters, the Islamic Republic's UN representative pointed out that the Iraqi cease-fire violations were intentional. He also stressed that Iraqi officials are trying to divert public attention from Iraq's domestic problems by their mischievous actions with the creation and expansion of the crisis on the border regions. The letters point out that Iran's approach to such attempts is to exhibit maximum self-restraint and that it has informed Iraqi officials of these violations. Iran's letters have been published as a Security Council documents.

Khamene'i Leaves Hospital 16 May

LD1605111191 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 May 91*

[Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, was discharged from hospital this morning after having a successful operation and having convalesced. In this connection, the following statement was issued by the leader of the Islamic revolution:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With thanks to God and his holiness the lord of the age [Imam Mahdi]—may our souls be sacrificed for him—for their special blessings, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, was discharged from the hospital this morning after receiving special postsurgery care and having recovered. His condition is fully satisfactory. [passage omitted]

Velayati, UN Envoy Discuss Refugee Aid

LD1005123691 *Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 10 May 91*

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—U.N. Chief's envoy for refugees Sadruddin Aga Khan here Friday briefed Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the situation of the Iraqi Kurds assembling along Iranian and Turkish borders and that of Shi'ite Muslims in southern Iraq.

Aga Khan, who visited several refugee camps in West Azerbaijan Province Thursday, said the international community viewed Iran's humanitarian assistance with admiration and fascination. He also regretted the little attention being paid by most Western countries to the fate of Iraqi Shi'ites living in southern Iraq and cautioned that the continuation of such a situation might create grave problems.

Velayati said Iran was doing its best to help the refugees and expressed hope that the international community would fulfil its duties in this regard.

Aga Khan, is to visit Turkey and Iraq at the end of his mission in Iran. He arrived in Tehran last Wednesday.

Minister Scores International Aid for Iraqi Refugees

NC1505113391 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 15 May 91*

[Text] Last night Interior Minister Nuri discussed the level of foreign assistance being provided the Iraqi refugees and how our officials receive and distribute this assistance. The interior minister visited the news studios of the First Network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss the presence of more than 1,100,000 Iraqi refugees in our country and their accommodation in 65 camps. He described the total foreign assistance as meager.

Discussing Western media allegations, Mr. Nuri said that the world mass media spreads falsehoods. Any group wishing to provide the Iraqi refugees with assistance can send its aid by any means possible or it can give its assistance to the refugees directly.

Mr. Nuri explained that the total amount of assistance foreign organizations and countries have provided to Iraqi refugees in Iran has reached 12,000 tons, including 50,000 tents and other peripheral items. He said this aid only covers 25 percent of the refugees' needs.

The interior minister said that to date these same organizations have only provided 5,000 to 6,000 tons of food-stuffs, which is only 20 percent of what the refugees need.

Velayati, Minister Meet UN Official

*LD1205184591 Tehran IRNA in English
1702 GMT 12 May 91*

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—The Islamic Republic's role on the international scene was described as "dynamic and praiseworthy" by U.N. Undersecretary-General Mrs. Therese P. Sevigny in her meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday.

Sevigny, who heads the U.N. Department of Public Information, also briefed Velayati on the activities of her department.

She expressed hope that cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the U.N. Department of Public Information would expand.

Velayati in response underlined the importance of relaying factual information around the world, and said cooperation with Iran in this field could prove "helpful to the countries of the region and the world."

The U.N. official, who is in Iran to get acquainted with the activities of the press in Iran, had a separate meeting today with Deputy Foreign Minister for Communications Morteza Sarmadi.

Sarmadi criticized Western mass media for its monopoly on news and information and its manipulating of world public opinion.

Sarmadi who is also the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the U.N. should be strengthened to change the present unfair system on the basis of which the Western mass media operates without the least respect for the national and regional values all over the world.

Mrs. Sevigny said the United Nations is trying to eliminate discrimination in the distribution of news and information in the international arena.

She invited Sarmadi to visit the U.N. Department of Public Information which the latter accepted.

UN To Set Up Narcotics Control Center in Iran

*LD1305131991 Tehran IRNA in English
1216 GMT 13 May 91*

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—A delegation from the International Fund for Narcotics Control of the United Nations is to visit Iran in July, according to the head of the Secretariat of the Iranian Headquarters for Narcotics Control Abolfazl Dost-Mohammadian.

He said that during its stay in Tehran, the UN delegation will study Iran's success in fighting production and distribution of narcotics and prospects for UN investment in Iran for narcotics control projects.

Dost-Mohammadian said Iran is among the few countries which has not received any help from the UN affiliate organization for fighting narcotics. He said Iran would be ready to help other nations with the task of

identifying opium farms in the various parts of the world with the aid of satellite systems.

According to the Iranian official Iran presented a report on the topic to the 34th session of the UN Commission for Narcotics Control in Vienna recently, and that the scheduled visit to Tehran of the UN team is in the same relation.

He said the UN organization decided in its 34th session in Vienna to set up a regional UN narcotics laboratory and control center in Iran whose task will be to identify production centers and production and distribution rings as well analyze the seized narcotics.

Enforcement Officials Discuss Narcotics Threat

*LD1305182791 Tehran IRIB Television
First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 13 May 91*

[Text] At the first national gathering of security deputy commanders and antinarcotics officials of the 25 regions of the State Law Enforcement Force, Brigadier General Sohrabi, commander of the Law Enforcement Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran described the importance of the fight against narcotics and addiction. He called on the security deputy commanders and antinarcotics officials to draw up extensive intelligence and operational plans to step up their operations, and to deal more strictly with merchants of death.

Referring to the threat of the spread of narcotics and addiction in the region, Interior Minister Nuri called on the law enforcement officials to step up the fight started two years ago.

Oil Industry Ties Sought With Non-OPEC States

*LD1205165291 Tehran IRNA in English
1403 GMT 12 May 91*

[Text] Islamabad, May 12, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i is due in Islamabad next Tuesday for talks on the joint establishment of an oil refinery in Pakistan and on oil and gas sale.

Iran has also invited Pakistan to attend a major international conference on oil and natural gas in the central city of Esfahan on May 27-29, which is to be attended by oil ministers of several countries and experts from leading oil companies.

In Pakistan Aqazadeh-Kho'i will also discuss mutual cooperation within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), a body which includes Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

However, oil experts believe that inviting Pakistan and some other oil importing countries to the Esfahan conference was more significant than cooperation within the ECO.

So far oil producing countries have been very exclusive about negotiations on oil. Most international conferences on oil were confined to members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and international finance and oil experts.

But Iran has invited OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers as well as European, American and Asian oil industry experts. Representatives from the United Nations and the World Bank are also to attend the oil and gas conference.

Among the topics to be discussed in the conference are prospects for international developments in the 1990s, the environment and the oil and gas industries in the Middle East and Iran, and the international oil and gas markets.

Iran has offered to cooperate in controlling the burning oil wells in Kuwait. An Iranian delegation is currently in Kuwait, which would probably announce the results of the talks by the end of this week.

State Company Stocks for Sale to Private Sector

LD1305135791 Tehran IRNA in English
1311 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—Iran's national industries organization is to sell rials 100 billion worth of the stocks of state owned companies to the private sector this calendar year (began March 21). Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh said here Monday.

"In order to attract people towards industrial sector and protect productivity, agreements in principles have been issued for setting up of 10,600 industrial units last calendar year ending March 20, of which 100 were earmarked for governmental sector," he said.

Nematzadeh was addressing a seminar on exploring ways of encouraging people's participation in executive affairs and empowering nongovernmental sector to implement the affairs.

The minister also alled for removal of some unnecessary regulations so that people would show more enthusiasm in industrial investments.

Also speaking at the confab was Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari who said if the private sector is motivated to invest in agricultural projects, it would stipulate and expedite the development of this sector in Iran.

"When competition is there and the private sector grows, economic corruption will be uprooted," Kalantari said.

The minister saying that Iran can make great progress in the field of agriculture because of its rich soil, called for further investment in this area.

The Oil Ministry, in compliance with a government policy to privatize some state-owned industries,

announced last month that it would hand over some of its petrochemical projects to the private sector under certain conditions.

Pakistani Shiite Leader Meets Velayati

NC1405092091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network
in Persian 0330 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Scholar (Sajid Naqawi), leader of the Pakistani Shiites, met with Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati yesterday and discussed recent developments in the situation of the Shi'ites in Pakistan. The leader of the Pakistani Shi'ites also pointed to the need for unity among the Islamic groups, and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to bring the views of these groups closer to each other.

Mr. Velayati also pointed to the significance of unity between the Shi'ite and Sunni groups in Pakistan, and described Muslim solidarity vis-a-vis the various plots by the enemies of Islam as a basic element in improving the Muslim situation.

Ahmad Khomeyni Interview on Martyrdom Anniversary

NC1505121491 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
1 May 91 p 22

["Exclusive" interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Tehran on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of scholar Motahhari—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [KEYHAN] At this point in our discussion it would be appropriate to discuss the dangers of leaning toward showy things and craving opulence. What are your views on the subject?

[Ahmad Khomeyni] Unfortunately the tendency toward luxuries, expensive goods, opulence, extravagance at receptions is so widespread that if we wish to reach the level of living in the years before the Imam's demise we would encounter many difficulties. If you visit the ministries you will see lavish flower arrangements for which the impoverished people are paying, the chairs and tables are also not the same as the ones that were there in the beginning of the revolution. The food at receptions is not the same. There is such a clutter of luxury goods that it pains the hearts of those who feel. All this is because we have not taken the slogans of the revolution seriously.

When an American military airplane landed at Tehran airport, I was terribly ashamed. This incident was downplayed in Iran but the Western media called it a major phenomenon. It reminded me of the time when the Americans sent a table tennis team to the PRC after pleading for a long time to do so. It considered it a major victory.

The arrival of an American military plane was extremely abhorrent. Therefore, the foreign mass media went out saying that this was the first time a U.S. military plane

had landed safely at Tehran airport in the history of the Iranian revolution. If the officials want to be blessed in the world and in the hereafter they should have implemented the exhortations of the great leader of the revolution; that is, they should have taken serious steps to kill the Americans who come to this region. He said that whoever is killed while doing so is a martyr. However, some of their actions do not conform at all with what the leader said.

With his fiery rhetoric, the leader of the revolution calls on the revolutionary offspring of the world of Islam to carry out the great struggle against reactionaries, the United States, and the West, as well as against world arrogance. We should strictly follow our leaders and not let things come to such a point that we will do anything for the sake of convenience.

If all the Iranian officials were followers of the Imam and the leader, they would never have allowed the war with the West, in particular with the United States, to fade. They should continue to condemn all such policies which are not in line with this fact. All should be aware that a sense of power brings about dictatorship and changes a person in power to the extent that he does not tolerate opposition. As far as he can, he gives instructions using force which gradually takes him down the road to his downfall, unless he is a civilized person.

Those who are civilized and whose real task is to serve God, will use their power to attain the divine objectives. I have repeatedly stated that the great leader of the revolution should be kept immune from criticism. Leadership is a lofty status and we need a leader at sensitive junctures. Except for the leader, all those who are in any position, however high, should be open to criticism if they are to be effective. In fact, the higher the position the more violent the criticism should be so that the official does not have a sense of power and will not take any step against the interests of the revolution and Islam.

Our Imam had said: Criticism, even castigation is a divine bounty. If someone doesn't like something it should be made very clear. They should not think that if they say something it will offend our dear president or our ministers and deputies or will weaken them. Praise be to God, our system is on the shoulders of pious and religious individuals and is firm and durable and is not at all harmed by such happenings. In fact, the lack of criticism and differences is very harmful.

The media should reflect opinions opposing the government, the deputies, the majles, or the judiciary. This is freedom which the people have defended in their various marches. On one hand, radio and television should be able to play a very fundamental role in fostering this type of freedom. Only then will we be better able to combat the West. Rest assured that what is really arriving on those military planes is Western culture disguised as old and cheap blankets.

[KEYHAN] If you permit me, I wish to ask a question regarding your resignation as the representative of the Vali-ye Faqih at the hajj. Could you discuss the issue?

[Ahmad Khomeyni] In Islam a principle exists that if a person wants to do something that is not obligatory and his parents disagree with him, the act is unlawful, especially if it is inconvenient. This principle can be overridden by another principle; that is, when the Vali-ye Faqih says that there is no problem, I consider myself a soldier of the leadership and whatever they say I am ready to do. Probably just like you.

Before giving me instructions the leader said: "Mr. Karrubi has come to me twice and said that since I am the majles speaker I cannot perform this assignment." I therefore accepted the assignment and had no objections. [passage omitted]

Later my mother told me she was not happy with the assignment. I told her that she had always been present in all adverse circumstances, during the struggle, the exile. She replied: Now that such things have happened to Mostafa and the Imam I do not have the resistance I had before. I said: I have accepted this responsibility and how will it reflect on the orders of the leader if I turn it down? She said: Nothing will happen. He will appoint another person and this will also set an example that people should obey their parents. So I said that I would go and explain the matter.

As a matter of fact, I felt thoroughly ashamed telling the great leader, and I knew this would generate rumors and theories. Some say that the leftists exerted pressure on Ahmad, and he resigned. Others say that they wished to eliminate Karrubi and Ahmad had said he had no objections and when the tension subsided, he said: Choose another person. Another group said that Saudi Arabia had applied pressure saying remove so and so but God alone knows, none of this was true. I have always been a true soldier to the revolution and have never done anything like this before.

I narrated all this to Mr. Mohammadi Reyshahri and asked what would happen. He said: I do not know. Mr. Mohammadi spoke to the leader who he said it is entirely my decision. I told Mr. Mohammadi that if the leader says it is an order, I have no emotional problems as far as my mother is concerned. I would tell her it is an order and the problem would be solved. However since the great leader has affection for my mother and for me, he said: The Imam has some rights on us and so does your mother. So they selected another person. In any case, our dear brother Mr. Reyshahri is a far better person than I am and may God grant him success. This was the truth and nothing else and that is why I wrote it as such.

There was no pressure involved and am I am not one to succumb to pressure. Our system is also not one which would set up such scenarios that first I should be selected and then another person. No letter came objecting to my selection and I am not one who will take any step in

weakening the system or the leadership. This has been proved by my work after the Imam's demise, regardless of what anyone says.

Commentary Warns of 'Treachery' Against Muslims

NC1305200291 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic*
1630 GMT 13 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Developments in the region are now moving at a frenzied pace, as can be seen by the current shuttle missions to Arab countries by various international figures. The Soviet Union, which had not played an effective diplomatic role in the region for years, is back on the scene, embarking on a diplomatic phase which began with the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Tel Aviv and which reveals a very clear lack of self-confidence.

U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has succeeded in obtaining the agreement of the heads of the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf to participate, should they be invited to do so, in an international peace conference to resolve the Middle East problem.

Talks are now under way in Cairo between the Egyptian regime and U.S. officials. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak believes that there is no need to invite the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to such a conference. But Washington, supported by London, believes that it is important that all Arabs sign any agreement.

Amid these developments, the spotlight has shifted from Morocco's King Hassan II to Husni Mubarak. Cairo has turned into a den for political interaction and newsmaking with regard to the proposals to resolve the Palestinian problem. The Zionists, the representative of the former superpower, and the representative of the archsatan, as well as the last party's allies, friends, and supporters, are busy preparing for a great celebration. All of them are hoping to bury the oppressed Palestinian people's hopes, dreams, and rights. All these parties are dreaming of a celebration that will culminate in the signing of a document recognizing Israel, a document of degradation and humiliation for the Arabs and the Palestinians. Everything indicates that the enemies of Islam have succeeded in imposing even further degradation and humiliation on the Arabs and Muslims by exploiting the Arab reactionaries' submission to them.

The Egyptian regime's stands made it easy for the Zionists to penetrate its country. This regime's acceptance of the treacherous Camp David accord led this Arab Islamic country into the lap of the Zionists, thus preventing its return to the Arab and Islamic fold. Subsequent events began taking quite a different turn, however. For various reasons, some Arab regimes began to follow the treacherous course in which Cairo had led the way. Once again, although in a very different way and with very different goals, Cairo became a center for political activity in the Arab world. Instead of working to

defend Arab and Islamic dignity, such activity nowadays is aimed at humiliating other Arabs and Muslims by imposing agreements that are a betrayal of all Arabs and of the Palestinian people's rights.

It can be said that all current developments and moves in the Middle East are part of an attempt to bring about complete Arab submission to Israel. Such moves seek to lay the appropriate foundation for agreements that will ultimately surpass that of Camp David in treachery.

Palestine is today experiencing one of the darkest periods in its history. All Muslims have a duty to do all they can to prevent such treachery. Muslims throughout the Islamic world must defend the glory, dignity, and honor of Islam, a glory, dignity, and honor which have frightened its enemies who are trying to extinguish its radiant fire. Islam's enemies appear to have forgotten that the Islamic nation bred Khalid al-Islambuli [Egyptian who assassinated President Anwar al-Sadat], Sulayman Khatir [Egyptian soldier who killed several Israelis in Sinai], and the heroes of the Islamic intifadah in Palestine. They have forgotten that all sons of this nation are men of this sort and are fully prepared to reply to Islam's enemies in the language they understand best.

Need for Islamic Economic Cooperation Stressed

NC1305181691 *Tehran ABRAR in Persian*
1 May 91 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Islamic Countries and Strong Economic Polarization"]

[Text] The creation of a strong economic pole around which the Muslim countries of the region can rally, as proposed by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Turkey, can create a new foundation for wide-ranging cooperation in the Middle East.

Speaking in Ankara, the president said: Today we are witnessing the emergence of economic poles around the world. There is no doubt that the regional Muslim countries can also create a strong economic pole thanks to their enormous natural resources and God-given wealth. This is only possible, however, through cooperation and joint efforts.

The president described the cooperation among Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan (the Economic Cooperation Organization) as a starting point for such extensive cooperation and the creation of an Islamic economic pole for regional cooperation.

The emerging new world order and the accompanying changes in international relations require countries to rally around the economic poles of technologically advanced countries if they wish to guarantee their political survival. Should they fail to do so, they will be crushed under the wheels of the powerful countries' economies.

With united Europe, America, and Japan as the only economic poles available, there can be no guarantee that other countries will be able to preserve their independence.

These powers have all cast covetous eyes on the Middle East because of its enormous resources. The presence of America and the allied forces in the oil-rich Persian Gulf and their hopes of dominating this area should provide a strong incentive for the Islamic countries to close ranks and expand their economic cooperation.

With their vast resources, the regional countries have the necessary base to create a strong economic pole. By doing so, they will be able to protect themselves now and in the future of the new world order and to prevent their being absorbed by one of the hegemonistic poles.

U.S. Aircraft Landing in Iran Questioned

NC1505131391 Tehran KEYHAN
in Persian 29 Apr 91 p 2

[Commentary by Mehdi Nasiri: "An American Airplane in Tehran"]

[Text] "The landing of a U.S. airplane at Tehran airport" was an unexpected piece of news that generated a lot of excitement. Just why the plane landed here is still swathed in layers of ambiguity. Who can accept the justification that the craft brought aid to the refugees and was performing a humanitarian service? Is the dispatch of two or three thousand second-hand blankets so effective and problem-solving that it is worth distorting the anti-American face of the revolution and generating doubts in the minds of the people at home and the admirers of the revolution abroad?

Were our people not ready to give as many blankets—and new and unused ones, not old or second-hand ones—to resolve this great calamity and unravel such a Gordian knot that we would not be forced to give such a sweet and golden concession to the Yankees, who for years have been groveling like dogs for establishing even the most minute hair-like contact? Now should we accept their contempt and their substandard blankets?

Did the esteemed Foreign Ministry and its officials not think for a moment of the large wave of propaganda made by the length and breadth of the Western mass media that this incident generated worldwide against the anti-American face of the revolution? Are they able to expose the lies and the White House's deceit to the world by proving that only 17,500 kg of blankets were brought by the U.S. airplane, not 65,000 kg as the White House claimed?

Of course, the European countries are also—with the help of their active diplomacy on the one hand and the immense goodwill on the part of our Foreign Ministry officials on the other—involved in reaping political benefit from the refugee issue. Madame Mitterrand, who is known for her anti-Iranian activities in defending the

secessionist counterrevolutionary grouplets in Kordestan, is also allowed to interfere.

An explanation should be provided as to why, despite vehement and repeated attacks by the great leader of the revolution His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i on the United States and its Western allies (a conspicuous example of which is his derision of the U.S. President for requesting the establishment of ties), such a colorful spread had been laid out for the Westerners on the pretext of assistance to refugees that the United States also dared to participate? It should be explained how and from what account will the expenses of this contemptible diplomacy be disbursed?

New Islamic Security Pact Urged

NC1205172391 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
25 Apr 91 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "From the Soviet Republics to the Iraqi Safe Havens"]

[Text] The Persian Gulf crisis, which began with Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and culminated in an unconventional war, is not over yet as far as the countries involved are concerned.

We should see the Persian Gulf crisis and the oil war as the beginning of a regional crisis, with the United States pulling the strings.

No Middle Eastern country should consider itself immune from the aggression of the West and especially of America. This aggression can be cultural, economic, and political, as well as military.

The plan to establish a safe haven in northern Iraq and talk about one in southern Iraq poses a threat to Iraq's territorial integrity and reflects a plot to dismember this country. Such plans also pose a threat to the entire region.

The idea of collecting people of a certain ethnic group in one place and thus creating a potential hot spot has two objectives: to undermine the unity of nations and to create ethnic crises which will divert international attention from Israel's position as an occupying and illegal government.

The spread of secessionism in the USSR is another product of this maelstrom in the region. The Soviet Union is the only country that can play a role in the Middle East by virtue of its strong army and ideology—provided this too is not swept away.

Despite its protestations of nonintervention in the Soviet Union's domestic affairs, there is good reason why America does not conceal its desire for the USSR's dismemberment.

The plan to create ethnic enclaves and thus cripple these countries applies to both the Soviet republics and the

safe havens in Iraq and its scope can be extended according to America's long-term goals.

Naturally, NATO's aggression against the Persian Gulf and the Middle East cannot be stopped by one country alone. This can only be done by a strong and unified force composed of the Islamic countries in the Middle East.

NATO does not see any potential power emerging to challenge it anywhere in the world, and so it is placing no limits on its expansionist military and political plans. By forming a military, political, and economic pact and by relying on their Islamic solidarity, the Islamic countries of the Middle East and Africa can nonetheless create a powerful deterrent force against NATO. Current conditions demand that such a pact's formation be accelerated. For this to succeed, all minor differences over ideological issues and systems of government should be set aside in view of the great danger threatening Islamic countries' national interests and territorial integrity.

The Islamic Republic of Iran can take the lead in creating such a pact. It may be necessary for just a few Middle Eastern governments to found this military, political, and economic pact and then search for additional members among the remaining Islamic countries of the Middle East and Africa.

Independent Gulf Security Structure Urged

*LD1205125191 Tehran IRNA in English
0957 GMT 12 May 91*

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—The Persian daily 'JOM-HURI-YE ESLAMI' Sunday commented on the future security structure of the Persian Gulf region and said that such a structure can turn into the biggest source of danger for the region, if the regional countries make wrong decisions.

The daily's editorial said that the previous regional security plan, the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council PGCC, failed because one of its six members, Iraq [as received—Iraq is not a GCC member], deployed all the weapons provided by other five members against PGCC members and because the U.S. tried to portray Iran as the common enemy of the PGCC members.

Washington has once again been tempted to influence the Persian Gulf littoral states and repeat the previous failure in a bid to secure its own interests.

The daily warned that the Islamic Republic as a major Persian Gulf littoral state must act more vigilantly with regards to membership in such a security plan.

The PGCC is phased out and all Persian Gulf littoral states should take actions to form a security structure in the region after thorough consultations, it said.

Furthermore, Iran's participation in such a security structure must in no way tarnish its revolutionary prestige. The security structure must be a framework for independent decision-making far from U.S. influence.

The daily also warned against involving other regional states in the negotiations and compromising with Israel. It also cautioned that the regional sheikhs want all the region to follow their policy of appeasement towards the U.S.

Yemen Referendum, Islamic Stance Examined

*NC1405090791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic
Republic of Iran First Program Network
in Persian 0343 GMT 14 May 91*

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. While the draft of the Yemeni Republic's first constitution is to be put to referendum tomorrow, thousands of Yemeni Islamic forces in Sanaa and in other cities have carried out extensive political efforts so that the contents of the constitution can be reviewed before it is put to referendum.

This constitution was written in the first stages of the unity between North and South Yemen. A decision was made to put the constitution to a referendum once full unity was achieved. Even though the united Republic of Yemen was officially established last 22 May, the rapid and unexpected developments in the Persian Gulf and their grave consequences, especially for Yemen, prevented the new government from keeping its normal course in its program, and thus the planned referendum was postponed.

On the eve of the unity of the two Yemens and since the compilation of the draft constitution, Islamic forces wanted Islamic shari'ah to be stated as the sole source of the country's laws in the constitution. To date the text of the draft constitution only refers to Islamic shari'ah as one of the sources of legislation. The Islamic forces also protest some points in the constitution which, in their opinion, are contrary to Islamic beliefs.

With the swelling of Islamic protests, which came due to the unity of the stances of various Islamic organizations and groups in Yemen, the Yemeni presidential council recently issued a statement that any law contrary to Islamic shari'ah is illegal according to the constitution. The Islamic forces believe this step is insufficient and that the legal aspects of this statement are weak.

Within the framework of their practicable pressures on the government, the Islamic forces threatened that if the text of the constitution was not reviewed they would boycott the referendum. To date, efforts by the Islamic religious and political leaders favoring a peaceful solution to this problem have concentrated on talks with the country's political officials, especially with the president himself, and within this framework a large peaceful march was organized on Sunday in the Yemeni capital. The nationalist faction considered the presidential council statement a retreat in the face of what the retrogressive forces want and described it as a threat against the unity of Yemen.

In this political battle, the Yemeni Government has been trying to overshadow this new political problem with that country's tragic economic situation. Seeing itself pressured from both sides—by the Islamic forces and the nationalists—the government has been trying to give priority to economic and social problems and to leave this acute political stage behind. Yemen, which is one of the world's 20 poorest countries, suffered the most severe economic and social losses during the Persian Gulf crisis. The dismissal of almost 1 million Yemenis who were working in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Arab shaykhdoms in the Persian Gulf caused various socioeconomic problems inside Yemeni society in addition to depriving it of important foreign currency income. In addition, the return of a large number of Yemenis living in African countries, especially in Somalia, doubled the domestic problems.

Political experts believe that under the current severe economic blows and economic problems, the Yemeni Republic is unable to bear political problems. Therefore, it is understandable that the Yemeni political leaders attach such importance to overcoming this difficult stage which is basically linked with that country's national unity. However, what is more important yet is how they will overcome this stage.

Government 'Hypocrisy' on Iraqi Kurds Condemned

NC1305173391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian
Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT
12 May 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Although the clerical regime's attitude toward the Kurdish people of Iranian Kordestan is known, the recent events in Iraqi Kurdistan, which have been the focus of attention by the world public and international organizations, gave the clerical regime a new opportunity to show its hypocrisy by shedding crocodile tears for the Iraqi Kurds. In an effort to conceal its crimes in Iranian Kordestan, its true intentions, and its hostility toward the Kurdish nation, it has feigned support for the efforts to protect the rights of the Iraqi Kurds. With this display of hypocrisy and duplicity, the clerical regime not only sought to conceal its inhuman nature but also to go a step further and portray itself as a supporter of the Kurdish people.

Recent events in Iraqi Kurdistan not only provided an opportunity for the clerical regime to resort to hypocrisy and demagoguery toward the Iraqi Kurdish refugees, but also enabled the Iraqi Kurdish brothers and sisters, as a result of their bitter experience of displacement, to become better acquainted with this regime's true nature and its hostility toward the Kurdish nation in general and the Kurdish people in Iranian Kordestan in particular. At the same time that it hypocritically tries to portray itself as sympathizing with the Iraqi Kurdish refugees, without taking any serious steps to meet their needs, the clerical regime resorts only to propaganda and

hypocrisy and, more importantly, acts against the rights and interests of the Kurdish people.

The clerical regime's hypocrisy toward the Iraqi Kurds becomes all the more obvious when it clearly expresses its opposition toward their gaining autonomy. The negotiations between the Iraqi Government and an Iraqi Kurdish delegation to settle the Kurdish problem in that country has further revealed the clerical regime's hostility toward the Iraqi Kurdish brothers and sisters. From the outset of the talks on a settlement of the Kurdish problem in Iraq, the Islamic Republic's officials attempted in various ways to obstruct a resolution of this problem and to prevent the Kurdish people from achieving their aspirations in this part of Kurdistan.

Rafsanjani's recent visits to Turkey and Syria should also be seen within this context. Moreover, when questioned on the clerical regime's views on the autonomy of Iraqi Kurds by a student during a recent meeting, Rafsanjani stated that he does not consider autonomy to be the solution to the Kurdish problem. He said that the Kurdish problem in Iraq should be solved in the same way it has been solved in our country. Rafsanjani thus confirmed the Islamic Republic's opposition to the autonomy of the Iraqi Kurds and its support for the continuation of the suppression of the Kurdish nation in all parts of Kurdistan. He described this as the only solution to the Kurdish problem, indicating that he opposes not only autonomy for Iranian Kurds but also a peaceful solution of the Kurdish problem and the granting of autonomy to Kurds in other parts of Kurdistan.

Yes, this is the sympathy that the Islamic Republic is showing toward the Kurdish refugees. These are the steps the clerical regime is taking to have the Iraqi refugees return to their homes. This is the clerical regime's view on autonomy for the Kurdish people in that country.

*** RESALAT Report on 13 Mar Majles Session**

91AS0734A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
14 Mar 91 pp 5, 14

[Report includes an interview with 'Ali Movahhedi-Saveji, representative of Saveji; place and date not given]

[Excerpt]

Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles

Legislative and Majles division. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

In this session, the representatives of Miandow Ab, Tabriz and Sepidan spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the Majles went into session.

The double urgency of the draft bill "to determine how the bonus pay of government employees will be paid in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]" was ratified in yesterday's session of the Majles.

Following are the pre-agenda speeches and ratifications of the Majles.

Asadollah Tabé', the Representative of the People of Miandow Ab

Today by making the region insecure, Muslims must insure that the foreign forces in the Middle East will not create a security belt.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Asadollah Tabé' from Miandow Ab, Takab, and Shahin Dezh Districts. [passage omitted]

He added: Today if the moans and cries of the oppressed nations are being heard from the farthest corners of the world you must know that in that region, the U.S. interests have been threatened by the people, and the interests of the oppressed and the downtrodden are being crushed by the evil forces of this criminal of history. The only way to rescue the barefooted, defeat the powers, prevent the aggressors and expose the great Satan is for all the oppressed nations of the world, particularly the 1 billion Muslims of the world, to unite under the banner of "There is no God but God" and the leadership of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, who has succeeded the imam and carries the banner, which for many years was carried by the Messenger of our Revolution [Khomeyni]. He has taken charge of the Ark of Salvation for humanity, and as our great imam commands it in the whirlpools and stormy waves, and by relying on God, he sails the seas and, God willing, will bring it to its intended destiny. Let them know that ultimately victory belongs to the oppressed, provided we choose our path correctly and obey the leader, because the economic pulse and the vital substance of all the powers in the world are at the disposal of the Muslims of the world. They must learn from the brave Iranian nation the importance of the unity of purpose, which according to our learned imam is the "secret of victory," and know that in all periods ultimate victory is the result of unity. Today, by making the region insecure, Muslims must insure that the foreign forces in the blue waters of the Middle East will not create a security belt and maintain their long-term presence in the Persian Gulf. Now the Arabs must realize how many bombs, missiles, and lead bullets were purchased with Saudi oil money and showered on the heads of the oppressed nation of Iran in the cities for the duration of the eight years of sacred defense. The martyr-nurturing and honorable people of Iran stood up in this sacred defense with their unmatched self-sacrifice and resistance to bring the enemy to its knees, and finally the sighs and cries of mothers with lost sons, children with lost fathers, sisters with lost brothers, wives with lost husbands, and [those whose] blood was unjustly spilled in the epic battlefields, the cities and the divine sanctuary [Ka'bah in Mecca] resulted in the misery of the Saudi regime, so that in abject misery and begging, they placed the honor and dignity of their nation at the disposal of the foreigners and tainted the sanctuary of God.

Tabé' continued: In the period of reconstruction, we request that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet take steps in regards to eliminating discrimination and oppression in regions that, due to the problems of the war in the eight years of the sacred defense, did not enjoy the benefits of the fundamental projects, including developmental, economic, health, communication, education, welfare and recreation projects. In this connection, I have frequently informed the national officials of the cries of the oppressed residents of Takab, Shahin Dezh and Miandow Ab in regard to unemployment, health, cultural, social, developmental, and investment issues. Hopefully now that the war is finished, these areas will not be forgotten. For instance, the people of these cities do not even know what a hospital is, because neither is there any sign of a clean standard hospital and equipped staff in the center of this area nor are there any experienced physicians. The hospital resembles more a "Zour-Khaneh" [an arena for traditional athletic ceremonies] than a hospital. Consequently, our oppressed people are the first to endure all the problems and shortages. If there is a shortage of surgeons, general practitioners, gynecologists, dentists, hospital beds, or anesthetic drugs in the country, our city suffers first from it, and our people do not have the capability of traveling to other cities for treatment. Ultimately, they will have to give up their life. In a survey carried out by oral hygienists and registered in the records of the health center, 10,000 students were found to have 42,000 decayed teeth needing to be pulled, 27,000 teeth needing to be filled and 2,000 gums requiring plaque removal, but due to the lack of primary resources they will have to suffer from such diseases. This area, with a population of 400,000 people, which due to its particular geographical location has become a communication bridge between several important provinces, has no medical diagnostic centers or emergency and childbirth facilities. Preliminary childbirth examinations are performed in a location that violates religious law. When a request is made to the officials to respond clearly to the issues concerning the building of a new hospital and the solving of this social problem, they find thousands of excuses and propose numerous problems. Our question is: Why should the shortages and discontent be placed on the shoulders of the people of the oppressed areas? When you want to build a 200-1,000-bed hospital with up-to-date equipment and a full staff, such problems do not prevent one from implementing the project. It is hard to believe that in a city located between two constantly full rivers, from whose Zarrineh River 2.2 billion cubic meters and from whose Simineh River 750 million cubic meters of water flow into Lake Urmia every year, the people's only realization is that they suffer from flooding and homelessness in the villages, that despite all this God-given wealth, their people should suffer from the lack of water and some shoals and areas of the city should lack clean water, and that the sewage system should be so unspeakable, with its stench extending many kilometers away. The people have had to request the closure of the only sanitary public bath house in the city for environmental reasons. Now that the Ministry of Energy has taken the

initial steps, we request that instructions be given to expedite the work on these two important and vital issues for the city.

He also pointed out some of the other problems of his constituency.

'Abdollah Purhoseyni, the Representative of the People of Tabriz

Anyone who wants to fight the United States must attack and place the oppressor in a defensive posture.

'Ali Ashraf 'Abdollah Purhoseyni, the representative of the people of Tabriz, was the second pre-agenda speaker. He spoke on the objectives of the regime of Iraq in the Persian Gulf and also on [Iraq's] service to global oppression and to the United States. In this connection, he said:

In the Persian Gulf war, some entertained the mistaken notion that in fighting the United States, Iraq revealed its antiimperialist nature, and some concluded that essentially Iraq possessed this nature from the beginning, in this manner questioning the sanctity of our eight years of "sacred defense" and spreading the propaganda that in these eight years of defense and imposed war, two revolutionaries were fighting each other. We thank God that this belief did not last long, that before long it was revealed to be false, proving to domestic and foreign public opinion once again that our eight years of war and defense were not waged against a revolutionary and anti-imperialist. To be fair, the services that the regime of Iraq has rendered to global oppressors and the United States in the past 10 or 12 years have been no less than the services of other rulers dependent on the United States. Fighting and condemning the Islamic revolution of Iran for eight years and reducing our capability and resources, as has been announced, inflicted a minimum of \$600 billion and a maximum of \$1 trillion in damages on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This was the first act of loyalty of the regime of Iraq to the United States. They imposed this war on us when this revolutionary nation captured the U.S. Spy Nest and in practice and openly carried the banner of opposition to the United States in the scenes of the revolution before the world.

The second act of loyalty of the regime of Iraq to the United States was the Persian Gulf crisis. The regime of Iraq rendered a loyal service to the United States in three ways: First, it made fighting against the United States ridiculous. Some might entertain the mistaken belief that anyone who fights the United States is on a par with Iraq in its war against the United States over the unjust occupation of Kuwait; however, we have witnessed many heinous and unjust actions on the part of the United States in the course of history, when the United States has entered a country, killed its people, and invaded its territorial integrity without even having a document from the Security Council, which is under its control. Second, the way in which Iraq loyally served the United States in the Persian Gulf crisis was in the manner in which it fought the United States. Iraq chose an unjust and faulty method of fighting the United

States. When it occupied Kuwait, it thought that it could stay there, watch, endure the U.S. attacks and not withdraw from its principles. Essentially, in popular struggles and revolutions the principle has been that one cannot fight the United States defensively. Anyone who wants to fight the United States must attack it and put it on the defensive. If he sits and waits he will be struck down and defeated. To imagine that we can succeed in a war without attacking the United States is a false notion which Saddam hoped to create. And last, the act of loyalty of the regime of Iraq to the United States was the merciless slaughter that it committed after leaving Kuwait and retreating. What was the reason for this slaughter? Even if Saddam does not know it, he should know that he will not be in power for long. The purpose of this slaughter was to pave the way for a future regime. The people of Iraq are unhappy with the mismanagement and bad decisions of their rulers over the past few years and have brought this discontent out in the open. Any regime that takes over in Baghdad will have to respond now to so much mismanagement.

The representative of Tabriz pointed out: Why does the regime of Iraq fight and put down the revolution and the rebellion of the people on behalf of a regime which is moving in an unknown direction. It wants the future regime to begin its government without any noise and with peace of mind over people who have been suppressed. Perhaps the regime of Iraq wants to render its loyal service to global oppression by giving more concessions to the United States to save itself. The regime of Iraq must know that the United States, even if it obtains dozens of concessions, will not support it. The concessions that they obtain from them and the loyal service that they are given are for suppressing other revolutions in the world and giving a lesson to those revolutions.

Referring to the visit of the speaker of the Majles and the accompanying delegation to North Korea and Pakistan, 'Abdollah Purhoseyni addressed the officials and said:

On this trip, a reminder that was made to our officials was that there are countries in the world that do not enjoy having the oil resources, as we do, but have found ways to run their affairs. Some have missed these ways. We have seen a country that can run itself without underground resources such as oil and we have seen a country that has not taken such an initiative. A few years hence, our country will also have to choose one of these two or three scenarios. It will either agree to replace God-given resources with serious and constant work and effort, in which case it will gain dignity, or, in the second scenario, it will not do so, in which case general poverty will overtake us. Hence, I request that the officials, the honorable Majles and the honorable government make greater and more timely efforts to release us from our dependence on oil.

Ramazan Rohani-nya, the Representative of the People of Sepidan

The last pre-agenda speaker was Ramazan Rohani-nya, the representative of Sepidan, who first spoke on the

unfavorable economic conditions of the country at the present time as a result of global inflation, reduction in income and the consequences of the imposed war. He began examining the level of the appropriateness and beneficial nature of the direction governing the economic trend in the country and said:

It is true that today the government pays heavy subsidies, and the policy normally is that in order to support the oppressed, subsidies must be paid. Can this subsidy paid by the government for bread, meat, dairy products, food, medicine, fuel, and transportation seriously attend to the needs of the most oppressed and downtrodden stratum in the society? What benefit does the rural society receive from bread subsidies? How much of the subsidy paid by the government for dairy products such as milk, yogurt, and cheese reach the rural society? Hence, these issues are significant and must be reviewed.

In connection with the Majles, the speaker pointed out:

Undoubtedly, the place of the Majles in the law, the regime, the statements of the imam, and the directives of the vali-e faqih [supreme jurisconsult] leave no room for doubt for anyone, and the Majles is proud to obey the great leader without question. However, it is undeniable how this Majles is the target of abuse by some organizations. For example, I will mention the Voice and Vision. Every day you see a group coming to the Majles and taking films. But in the evening, when they show it on television, it appears as if they are showing a dark mysterious cave. What do you hope to achieve by taking a film of people's backs? You do not need to send a team to the Majles every day. Just one film is sufficient for several weeks. Why do you do this? As God is my witness, I am speaking without any bias towards any particular group. To be fair, how would you analyze this: The speaker of the Majles of a country travels to a neighboring country, receives such a magnificent and unprecedented welcome that the distance that should have taken 10 minutes takes three hours to travel; also, for the first time in the history of that country an official from another country speaks one hour to the Parliament of that country, attended by all the representatives of the various parties as well as the Cabinet. For one hour the honorable speaker of the Majles, as a leader of this branch of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is treated so magnificently. Was it justifiable for the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to deal with the issue so unkindly? There is room for complaint here.

Ramazan Rohani-nya then added: The reason and purpose for such internal conflict is sometimes asked, even by the revolutionary forces who are worried about the internal conflicts of the Majles. I say decisively that it is not true that this Majles comprises two dogmatic factional lines and continuously argues facing the issues and each other.

Most representatives of this Majles are the special, free, unaffiliated, and impartial forces who see the problems of the country, contemplate and study them, judge

accordingly and vote. I am proud to do so. Now sometimes it is on this side and sometimes on the other. Therefore, the whole Majles is not one. If there are those in this Majles who have a special way of looking at issues, I swear to God that their dealings with the Majles are so kind, friendly, and sincere that they sit together at one table and speak with each other. As the imam said, in the discussions in the seminaries, they argue like opponents, but when the discussion ends, they sit together like brothers and drink tea. In the Majles, I see individuals expressing their opinions, and when the session ends, they perform their prayers together and sit at the dinner table and eat together as friends. It is not true that, God forbid, the Majles is made up of two or three factions. Most importantly, the whole Majles, no matter what point of view each member holds, considers its pride and the pride of the regime in following the great leader. We would consider it the death of the Majles if for one moment, God forbid, its relationship were severed from the high position of the vali-e faqih.

He then said in regards to the employment situation of the revolutionary institutions:

Despite the fact that the burden of the revolution has been on the shoulders of the revolutionary institutions, today I must state that, most unfortunately, the employment situation of these brave revolutionary and self-sacrificing youth in the Martyr Foundation, Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled, [Imam's] Relief Committee, and the Khordad 15 Foundation is unclear. I seriously ask the beloved and honorable government to clarify the employment situation of these people.

In conclusion, the representative of Sepidan expressed his gratitude to the Construction Jihad and requested that it engage in a serious and active movement to revitalize the forests and pastures of the country.

Ratifications

Twenty other articles on the employment regulations of the Guards Corps were ratified by the representatives in the open session of the Majles yesterday.

The report of the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT indicates that, according to Article 23 of this bill, the Guards Corps can, if need be, sign a contract with special personnel of the mobilization forces who are at least 18 years of age to serve their compulsory service, after the necessary training, in the course of 10 years for a minimum period of one month per year, so that in this way they will have battle readiness for various missions and special conditions.

Note 1. The Guards Corps will summon these forces during times of war or in emergencies, and if they serve more than one month per year, the same amount will be deducted from their period of service and training in future years.

Note 2. This group, after passing the necessary training, will enjoy from the beginning of service the social rights

of those individuals who have left military service for employment, education and the like. Should the contract, however, be terminated, nullified or canceled, these above-mentioned rights shall be revoked until their compulsory service is completed.

Note 3. All institutions, organizations, ministries, and government companies and employers of the private sector, including legal or actual persons, must hold the jobs of such individuals, at least for the duration of their service in the Guards Corps. The above-mentioned individuals shall not receive salaries and benefits from the related organization.

Note 4. The salaries and benefits of those individuals, after the necessary training and from the start of the service, will be the same as the salaries and benefits of the personnel of the permanent military cadre.

Article 31. The headquarters of the Guards Corps is responsible to examine and analyze all the jobs of the Guards Corps within the framework of this law within a maximum period of one year, and to determine the duties and qualifications for every position which, following the approval of the general command of the Guards Corps, will decide on [the granting of] appointments and promotions.

In Article 35, the Guards and training centers have been classified as follows:

- Guards Corps high schools and trade schools;
- Military schools;
- Colleges of military science and technology;
- The command and headquarters college;
- The college of strategic sciences; and
- The Imam Sadeq University, including basic military sciences and scientific and specialized colleges

Note 1. The college of military science and technology is affiliated in scholarly matters with the Imam Hoseyn University and administered by the forces.

Note 2. The ideological-political college and other centers of ideological-political training of the Guards will be operated under the representative division of the vali-faqih in the Guards Corps.

In accordance with Article 37, the general training period of the Guards Corps for the permanent personnel who are employed with junior high school diplomas will be at least six months at the military school and for personnel who are employed with higher degrees, at least three months at Imam Hoseyn University. This course will be held during the basic science courses or as part of the college of military science and technology for those who are employed with a high school diploma.

Article 38 stipulates: This course will be held for the permanent military cadre who are employed with junior high school diplomas immediately after the general training course for a period of six months in the military schools. Programs and the educational subjects of this

course must be devised in a way that the graduates can carry out the duties of the ranks of sergeant second class and sergeant first class.

Note. The forces can, depending on their needs, take steps to establish military schools for general guard training and primary specialization in various units and regions.

In accordance with Article 39, the period of specialized training for the completion of the specialty of the permanent military cadre with the rank of warrant officer junior grade will be held at the college of military science and technology for at least six months. The forces shall be responsible for establishing these courses so that all the personnel with the rank of warrant officer junior grade can take these courses on time. The curriculum and the subject matter of these courses must be devised in such a way as to enable the graduates to perform the duties of warrant officer junior grade and chief warrant officer. Promotion to warrant officer junior grade will depend on the successful completion of this course.

In accordance with Article 40, training for the personnel mentioned in Note 1 of Article 77 of this bill with the rank of chief warrant officer must be arranged so that the graduates would be able to carry out the duties of first lieutenant down to third lieutenant. The promotion of such personnel to the rank of third lieutenant is contingent on the successful completion of this training

Article 41 states: In order to provide and train the personnel of the permanent military cadre who are employed with a high school diploma, the Guard will establish a basic military science college at Imam Hoseyn University. The minimum period of training in this college shall be seven semesters in two courses of study, as follows.

First course of study. This course will include at least four semesters and will be established for the training of those who are admitted with a high school diploma upon successful completion of a competitive entry examination.

The second course. This course will include at least three semesters and will be established for those who have been admitted through evaluation and competitive entry examination from among the graduates of the first course.

Note 1. The personnel that are employed having less than high school diplomas and succeed in acquiring a diploma can take part in the entry examinations for the basic military sciences college. The first course accepts applicants up to 25 years of age. All other things being equal, priority will be given to employed personnel.

Note 2. In urgent situations, the Guards Corps may register those who have associate degrees, up to 25 years of age, to participate in the entry examination for the second course of study for basic military sciences.

Note 3. The subjects and curriculum of this college must be devised in a way that upon further training, graduates

of the first course will be able to carry out the duties of third lieutenant up to colonel, and graduates of the second course will be prepared to carry out the duties of second lieutenant and higher.

Note 4. The central headquarters of the Guards Corps can carry out second level courses, as a series, on basic, introductory, and advanced military training in at least five semesters.

According to Article 42, in order to prepare and train the needed permanent technical and specialized cadre in joint disciplines and academic fields which are not offered by the universities in the country, the Guards Corps will take steps to establish specialized scientific colleges at Imam Hoseyn University, with the cooperation of the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment and Medical Education.

The continuation of the examination of other articles of this bill was postponed to the next session. The second item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the request for a double urgency status for the draft bill to "determine the procedures to continue bonus pay to government employees in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]," which 'Ali Mohammad Gharibani, the representative of the people of Ardabil, explained: The ratification to add 2,000 tomans to the salaries of government employees is for Mehr 1 to the end of the current year [23 September 1990-20 March 1991], which is about to expire in a few days, and for the year 1370, there is no provision for such payment. The bill for the coordinated payment system has been drafted by the government, which can be implemented in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]. Therefore, we have a void in 1370. This bill has been proposed in order to fill this void. Thus, following the statements of the representatives in opposition and support of the urgency, the double urgency was ratified. It is noteworthy that the renewal of the payment of bonuses, which was previously ratified by the government, will be examined in the next session.

According to the report of the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT, in yesterday's session, the bill for the coordinated payment to government employees was also received by the officers of the Majles.

The Majles will hold an open session next Sunday morning.

Interview With 'Ali Movahhedi-Saveji Concerning the Elections for Islamic Councils

Legislative and Majles division

In implementing the law for the elections of the Islamic councils of the country and following the election of the central council for supervision over the elections of the Majles, which is composed of five representatives elected by the Majles, the supervisory councils of the provinces were elected by the central council. Our parliamentary correspondent conducted the following interview with 'Ali

Movahhedi-Saveji, the representative of the people of Savoj in the Majles, about the election procedures for the supervisory councils in the provinces (which are objected to by a large number of Majles representatives):

[RESALAT] Please explain the importance of the elections for the national Islamic councils, considering that this is the first time such elections are being held in the country.

[Saveji] The issue of councils, essentially consultation, is one of the important issues of Islam. In the Koran, God has said in regard to the Islamic society, the Islamic community and the faithful people: [...that which is with God is better and more lasting. It is for those who...] conduct their affairs by mutual consultation. In other words, one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Muslim community is that it carries out its affairs on the basis of public consultation. Several articles in the Constitution cite the principle of national Islamic councils at the level of villages, cities, and provinces as well as the duties and authority of the councils.

Also, the Majles ratified the law of the national Islamic councils as well as the law for the elections of the Islamic councils. The proper implementation of this law will greatly help the role of the government of the people and the presence and supervision of the will of the people more than ever before on national issues.

In other words, the proper implementation of this law will help the Islamic government of the Islamic Republic to benefit from the opinions and rightful demands of the people in implementing the policies and plans and in every province, city, district, or village, to ask the people about the urgencies and priorities in the implementation of developmental, cultural and economic plans and projects and to make use of them.

Therefore, to the same extent that the people have had a role in the victory of the revolution and the protection of its gains, the proper implementation of the law of the councils and the establishment of popular Islamic councils will have a very great and important effect on helping and supporting this Islamic government, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the better implementation of the policies and the economic, social, political and cultural developmental projects of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[RESALAT] On what basis has the supervision of the elections of the national Islamic councils been conferred on the Majles?

[Saveji] It seems that the reason for appointing the Majles and the representatives of the Majles as the highest authority to supervise the elections of the national Islamic councils is that there are no provisions in the Constitution establishing an authority to supervise these elections.

In connection with the elections of the Majles and the president, the Council of Guardians has been established

as the authority to supervise the elections. But, in connection with the Islamic councils, the Constitution is silent in regard to the supervisory authority.

When the law of the elections of the Islamic councils was being discussed in the Majles, I was a member of the councils and internal affairs committee. We thought that an authority should be determined to supervise these elections. We also thought that since there are the elected representatives of the people in the Majles, therefore, the Majles,

which is made up of the representatives of the people of Iran, might better be able to supervise the nationwide elections on various levels, and on that basis we decided about the central council supervising over the elections of the councils to be composed of the elected representatives of the Majles. Therefore, it was first necessary to determine the authority to supervise the elections, second this determination was the duty of the Majles, and third, the representatives thought that the best organization to supervise the elections would be the Majles.